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CORASMIN.



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CORASMIN,

OR,

THE MINISTER;

A ROMANCE.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

BY THE AUTHOR OF THE SWISS EMIGRANTS.

VOLUME I.

LONDON:

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1814.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

A WORK like the present ought not, in general, to have any Preface; yet there is perhaps, in the conduct and plan, something which may render it necessary to explain the views with which the Author composed it.

In undertaking these Volumes, his object has been, to delineate and render interesting a model, as perfect as human nature will admit, of a man acting a conspicuous part in public life. It was not his object to prove any thing; because, though such an aim has of late become fashionable, and has been recommended by the example of many writers of genius, it does not appear to him suited to a Work of this nature. If virtue is to be there recommended, it must be, he conceives, by addressing itself to the feelings and the

imagination, not to the understanding ;—a faculty which must be cultivated and improved by severer processes.

Having it in view to make such a representation, it was difficult to find a suitable theatre. None of the European States could be fixed upon, without exciting that constant incredulity, so justly deprecated by the critic. Neither did the Author wish at all to blend history with fiction ; a plan which appeared to him injurious to both. He merely sought a scene, which, without imposing restraint, might give to his subject something like a “ local habitation and a name.” This view seemed answered by one of the kingdoms of northern Asia ; and Cashmire suggested itself ;—a country of which the history and manners are almost unknown, unless by the agreeable associations which the beauty of its scenery excites. This kingdom was subjected some centuries ago to the Mogul Empire ; but history represents it as once independent, and even the centre of an extended empire. Nothing, therefore, seems to render it impossible, that it should once have been the theatre of such events as are here delineated.

From what has been said it will appear, that to copy oriental language and manners not only did not enter into the plan, but would have been inconsistent with it. It was enough, if there appeared no glaring

incongruity. It may even be observed, that the countries here treated of are very little known; that the accounts which have reached us represent the manners there as greatly differing from those of Indostan, and approaching more nearly to the European standard. Perhaps, therefore, the Author will not be found to have materially passed the bounds of that license, which, on such subjects, is granted to works of invention.

1771
The first of the year was a very
warm one, and the weather was
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CORASMIN,
OR
THE MINISTER.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

AT length, my dear friend, your wishes are fulfilled with regard to my destiny. I have received from my uncle an invitation to enter upon the career of public life : He promises to introduce and support me. Your wishes, with the wishes of my friends here, unite in pointing at such an object. I myself have felt an

impulse to emerge from obscurity, and to mingle in the great scenes of human life. I go, then, though shrinking, half reluctant. * I enter upon that scene, the issue of which will decide all my future fate. My bosom swells with awful, pleasing, tumultuous emotions.

You inquire, perhaps, with what views and sentiments I enter upon this career? Assuredly you are well entitled to ask. From the time when a premature fate deprived me of my natural parent, you became my more than father. You received me into that retirement, to which, after a youth spent in public life, you had early withdrawn. Without anger, and without misanthropy, you had left a world which knew not your value. No longer able to act in it with honour, you devoted yourself to a life of contemplation; you sought to rear legislators, rather than to be one. Your partial fondness saw in me one,

through the medium of whom you hoped one day to benefit mankind. To the tenderness of an indulgent guardian you joined the warmth and confidence of a friend. You associated me entirely into those ideas which deep thought and experience had suggested, respecting the sources and principles of national well-being. You pointed out and procured access to every source of information which Cashmire could supply. But, more than all, you sought to impart that sacred fire, which had ever lived in your own breast. With you I learnt to consider the power of becoming a benefactor to my fellow-men, as the highest glory, the utmost felicity to which a mortal could aspire; as that which most nearly allied him to the Fountain of good, whence he derived his origin. The veil dropped, which had covered the crimes of fortunate ambition: I felt all that was odious in viewing the fate and

fortune of millions as subservient only to selfish interest and pride. I feel these impressions still warm ; and were they ever to be obliterated, I should consider myself as utterly lost. Yet I know too well the dangers which await me ;—the power of temptation, of example. I know well the weakness of human nature : I feel glowing within me passions, the same which have rendered others that which I most dread to be. I seek eagerly in the future, whether I be destined to fulfil that image of great and good which I have painted and fondly cherished ; or whether I will sink, and be carried along with the crowd. First and highest, I must seek the aid of that Power which implanted, and through you has cherished, that image. But I look also, as the surest of earthly props, to a continuance of that intimate communication which has hitherto subsisted between us. I wish to write every oc-

currence, every emotion, as it arises; to make you the depositary of all my feelings. Thus I may hope that they will continue such as I would ever wish them to be. You are such a friend, so tender, so indulgent, that I cannot be tempted to hide from you a single thought.

From the Same to the Same.

I RECEIVED your letter with extreme pleasure. Your approbation is most grateful to me. Your fears and anxious warnings shew me all the warmth of your affection. Now all is ready; the day is fixed. Shall I own it? This moment, so much longed for, now that it approaches, becomes most painful. I look back with envy on that long and

deep obscurity in which my life has hitherto passed. Oh! days, once accounted burdensome, now precious and regretted! golden days, how rapidly did you fly over my head! But I go; higher duties, higher hopes call me: I go into that tempting dangerous world. Yet, will my days ever flow on as tranquilly as beneath these shades?

It is now too late to repent, nor do I repent. But the feeling how much he would have to return to, gives your pupil some confidence that he will not be the mere slave of fortune; that whenever honour opposes a bar to his career, or he cannot advance without a sacrifice of those motives which impelled him to enter it, he will find little difficulty in retracing his steps.

From the Same to the Same.

I AM at Cashmire,—in the capital. I am plunged into that whirlpool, in which I must ever after be tossed. Farewell, Patala ; where deep beneath the shade of my native woods, while the breeze rolled over me, I lost myself in blissful visions of futurity ! Farewell to the golden days of hope !—But I must not look behind.

It was on the evening of the second day that I first came in sight of Cashmire ; that I beheld its palaces, its spires, its smoke dimming the western sky. I feel still not a little strange and lonely : my mind full of those I have left, and not yet interested in any thing

here. Crowds buzz around me, to whom I am nothing. However, these are my very first impressions, for I have not yet seen my uncle, nor any one. I shall have done so when I next write.

From the Same to the Same.

My uncle has received me with as much kindness as his letters had given reason to expect; he has even insisted on my taking up my residence in his house. He says he will make my fortune. This is not precisely the light in which I had viewed the subject; but he can, I presume, mean nothing more than the placing me in some sphere of public employment.

The present situation of affairs leaves no doubt as to what I must do. My country is in danger; I must fly to its defence. The barbarians of the north threaten to overwhelm this kingdom, and to lay it utterly waste: No good so great could be done, as to contribute even the smallest aid in repelling this threatened calamity. My uncle has procured me the offer of a small command; and though, in ordinary times, a different situation might have appeared more desirable, I have accepted it without hesitation. Though not wholly a stranger to military duties, my anxiety is, lest I should yet not be sufficiently qualified for a situation of such responsibility. Fortunately a certain interval is to elapse before the corps to which I am attached will join the army on the frontier; and I hope, by devoted application during that time, to supply what is now wanting in my qualifications.

From the Same to the Same.

MY time, since writing last, has been almost entirely occupied in preparing myself for the duties of my new situation. I must not lose a moment of time so precious. My apartment is entirely filled with maps, plans, and representations of military manœuvres; the tables are covered, the walls hung round with them. Still more valuable information, however, is to be gained from the conversation of several intelligent veteran officers, to whom my uncle has introduced me,—men who have thought as well as acted; who can shew the springs by which armies are moved; the hidden causes of former success and disaster.

I must own myself not to be quite so much delighted with my uncle, since our acquaintance became more intimate. Our ideas on some subjects do not exactly coincide. His own interest, the advancement of his power and favour at court, seem almost the sole objects of his ambition; and I sometimes doubt, that there are few things indeed which he would not sacrifice to them. It is thus not always possible to assent to the conversation I hear, or to avoid an occasional collision. However, we continue on the whole to be very good friends. He treats me with indulgence, makes allowance for my youth and inexperience, significantly predicts that time will effect a change; that a few years will bring me entirely to his mode of thinking. What I least like are the sage maxims ever in his mouth,—that we must suit ourselves to circumstances; that opportunities must not be lost; that we

must do as others do: And I am afraid that somewhat more is meant by these expressions than the mere words imply. However, he is exceedingly friendly, introduces me to every one, praises me every-where, and I see no positive ground to suspect, that these exertions have any other motive than personal kindness.

I have been introduced into a very extensive circle of society, which at this moment there is little leisure to cultivate. I have met with many persons highly accomplished, possessed of elegant, and even captivating manners; from many of whom, too, I have received ample professions of friendship. On a closer inspection, however, these accomplishments have often proved rather showy than useful, and these professions made chiefly to my situation and connexions. There prevails too much of that spirit which I have already noticed

in my uncle. Distinction at court, high office, appear the only envied objects on earth. In short, the scene, with some change of men, and some change of things, is still, on the whole, exactly as you described it. I recognize the truth of those shades which your pencil laid, on the too flattering portrait that fancy had drawn. You taught me to trace man, under all his disguises, in a court where all are devoured by vanity, all busied in the care of appearing what they are not. Yet you taught me also to guard against the extreme of unjust suspicion, to make all possible allowance even for obvious faults, to see in man his imperfections, and to love him still.

A very few, however, I have found, whose acquaintance, I trust, will ripen into friendship, and will form a chief support and enjoyment of my future life. Of these none is so amiable as Zingani, a young man whom you will remember to

have met at Chandor. He retains the warmest recollection of that period, and you form a powerful tie between us. You would then have some opportunity of observing his character. It is one formed rather for thought than action; rather for the shades of life than the tumult of public affairs. To sound judgment and comprehensive views, he unites elegant and highly cultivated taste. Modest even to timidity, unwilling to meet the public eye, his merit is overlooked by superficial observers. He is qualified for giving advice, rather than for acting upon it himself with vigour and decision. But his disposition is so affectionate, so formed for friendship, that it is impossible to know him intimately without being inspired with the warmest attachment.

Alvanda is a different character, more brilliant and more gay. His disposition, his talents, entirely prepare him for mixing in the world, and appearing with dis-

tion in all societies. He possesses also an ample share of solid qualities ;— quick penetration, a mind highly cultivated, and strict sentiments of honour. Yet is he not without some failings :— Open, generous, and unsuspicious, he is apt to be imposed upon by the mere appearances of virtue in others : he fails in that nice discernment of character, which is so important to the man who acts in the world, and in public life. Too much governed by present impressions, he is betrayed sometimes into precipitate steps. But his understanding soon enables him to discover the error ; and the frankness with which he acknowledges, the eagerness with which he seeks to repair it, throw new lustre on his character. In unfolding our views on the most interesting subjects, I have in general found, either that they were already his, or that, immediately on hearing, he was disposed to adopt them with warmth. He loves

you already, and would be extremely delighted to form an acquaintance with you.

My young friend Fazil has followed, and insists on entirely attaching himself to me. He possesses not, as you are aware, original or brilliant parts, such as could enable him to act in a distinguished sphere. But he is extremely amiable, and his devoted attachment well merits similar attachment in return. He is conscious besides of his deficiencies, and has no ambition to rise above that for which nature has destined him. He will be precious to me as a personal friend; one to whom I can entrust every secret, and can place the fullest confidence. It will be my object to keep him near me, and in his mild and modest friendship to find a refreshment from the toils and tumults of public life.

CABULI (*the Uncle*), to ALTUNO.

WELL! I am pleased with your young man. He has fire, spirit, activity; he will make a figure in the world. I hope one day to see him do honour to us both. He does really spare no pains in fitting himself to make a respectable figure at the head of his troop. His companions, too, have the reputation of young men of merit. These connexions are very creditable, and may aid in bringing him forward. There is no fear of him, provided he tempers his warmth with a little prudence; provided he listens to advice, and acquires a due respect for the opinions of persons of experience. At present he is a little unmanageable, full of college and

country notions, which will not pass current here. Till these are got rid of, it is impossible for any young man to make his way. It behoves, therefore, all the friends of Corasmin to impress upon him the necessity of bringing down his ideas to the level of this world. To you who have great influence with him, I trust for steady co-operation in this important object. One thing which consoles me is, that I remember to have myself, at one time, had some ideas of the very same nature; but the moment I came to be seriously employed, I found that they could be of no service whatever; quite the contrary. So, I trust, will it be with Corasmin; and surely, when he sees that the absence of such chimeras has never impeded *my* progress, he will see the less reason to cling to them with such pertinacity.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

I HAVE just beheld a most interesting spectacle. The corps of one of our officers being boasted of as peculiarly well disciplined, I one day found means, though at some little distance, to see it manœuvre. I was completely struck with astonishment and admiration. What celerity, what precision! How does one word, as if by magic, communicate a rapid and instantaneous impulse to every part! Such vast bodies moving in unison, as if one soul inspired all! What spirit in their countenances! This is indeed a model for us all. Never shall I be satisfied till mine is equal. I hope soon either to converse with this officer,

or, by means of some persons to whom he is known, to learn the methods by which he has brought his troops to this perfection.

But it is not the forms of discipline only which are necessary, in order to render men truly useful to their country. Besides the mere mechanical modes of enforcing obedience, the true officer must know how to command their minds; and, to command, he must know them. He must be acquainted with the ideas most familiar to these minds; the channels through which they may be reached, the arguments best suited to their comprehension, the allusions that strike most forcibly, the words which, thrown in at a critical moment, like fire on the flint, kindle the latent flame. Nor have I even overlooked opportunities of listening unobserved to their familiar conversation, and of thus studying the frame of those minds on which I am to operate.

Oh! my friend, who has given you the hint you allude to at the close of your letter? I in love! Amidst the tumult of arms, sharpening my sword for the mortal field, had I a moment left for such thoughts? I have seen glimpses only, partial, hasty; some, I own, not without charms, yet bearing too little resemblance to the image in my heart to inspire a wish that the object was mine. I have seen such approaches as to heighten my idea of that image, but not ~~to~~ fill it. If you say that it may be looked for in vain, you must at least admit, that I have still time to spend in hope. So then I am not in love, unless it be with that still unfound fair one. Indeed, my friend, you may rest assured, that in this respect, as in every other, whatever revolution may take place, you shall hear of first from myself.

From the Same to the Same.

WE are all in confusion; scarcely have I a moment to write. The alarm is given before expectation; the enemy are fast approaching. Already the trumpet blows; the echoes of the mountains are resounding. This is the long wished-for moment; yet I dread lest it should have arrived somewhat too soon. My troops are not yet all that I wished them: I tremble lest they should fail in the hour of trial. In the example, indeed, of some of my comrades, I see much that might be consolatory; but their standard must not be mine.

I go forth prepared, with my mind fully fixed to die. I speak not rashly;

I feel all that is awful in the thought. This current of life, which is now warm within me, to be stopped for ever! all my glowing hopes extinguished! Doubtless at this, nature must stand appalled. But, am I not fighting in a cause for which no sacrifice can be too great? Oh! thou supreme Author and Arbiter of this being, at thy command, and in a cause approved by thee, can I hesitate to quit it? Can I shrink from the future, dark and unknown though it be? No! Others must learn from me to conquer, or to die.

I have not time to write another word.—I fly to the field!

FAZIL to ALTUNO.

You ask me to write to you; to tell you all that is done by Corasmin, all that is said of him, all that his own modesty would never have disclosed. You could not have imposed on me a more grateful task. From the moment he rescued a father from calamity, I attached myself to his fortunes; and seeing every day more and more all that is great in him, my resolution became stronger never to separate. Though I cannot glow with that fire which shines so bright in him, though my soul be far beneath the level of his, I can still attend him as an

humble aiding friend : I can watch over his interests, while he is engrossed by the interests of mankind ; I can attach myself to his orbit, still near him, though still beneath. Such is the destiny I have chosen for myself ; such the sphere in which I hope to be most happy, most useful.

The approaching period will, according to every appearance, afford ample opportunity for fulfilling the task assigned me. Already Corasmin has set out with the army, and I instantly follow.

CABULI *to* CORASMIN.

MY dear Nephew,—As you are now for the first time going out into the world, I

think it my duty to communicate to you some lessons, which my own experience has suggested. I am far from wishing to undervalue Altuno: he is my friend, I esteem him greatly; much good you have derived from him. But I myself have lived somewhat longer in the world, and among great affairs; and when you merely consider to what I have raised myself, when compared with him, you will scarcely fail to admit me to be fully as well qualified for pointing out the way to a young man. Now Altuno, from living so long out of the great world, has given you some ideas not exactly suited to its meridian. Not that I blame him entirely; it is extremely proper and convenient to have such things at command. In manifestoes, and whatever is to appear before the public, they are quite in place, and produce often an advantageous effect. But when we come with them into real life, when we attempt applying

them to practice, they soon prove quite unfit for such purposes; they encumber us at every step. We must act according to circumstances, must seize the favourable moment, must study our own interest, otherwise no one will study it for us. These are the principles which you will find to have guided those who are now the men of greatest consequence at court. Perhaps, indeed, I might, without any very extravagant vanity, recommend myself as the model on which you might form yourself: But all my object is, to point out the safety of following the tract of those who have succeeded in the same line of pursuit.

FAZIL *to* ALTUNO.

CORASMIN has already had much to do; for the system which prevailed among the neighbouring corps was, in many respects, such as he could view with no satisfaction. Wherever the troops marched, it was their custom to plunder and commit outrages on the peaceable inhabitants. The regulations against such conduct were never duly enforced; and the unpunished example of others was supposed to constitute a right. Corasmin foresaw that chastisement, unless against flagrant offences, could not be practised without difficulty, and without

the danger of exciting an alarming degree of discontent. He exhausted all his ingenuity to devise some other mode of remedying the evil. His influence over the minds of his men was now great: it had been well earned, by his mildness, his attention to their comforts, his gracious address. He conceived it possible to persuade them voluntarily to abstain from these disorders. He could appeal to them, as never having shewn a disposition to abridge their comforts, or impose any unnecessary hardship. In language suited to their capacity, he represented the nature, the dignity of their employment;—to preserve their country from the assaults of savage enemies; to secure to their countrymen property and life. How unworthy was it of such an office to become themselves the plunderers; to act the very part which was dreaded from those against whom they were to contend. He roused their pride

to distinguish themselves, in this respect, above their neighbours. In short, he prevailed on them to enter into an engagement, to abstain wholly from these irregularities; to pay for whatever they procured; and to commit no violence on their unarmed countrymen. A number agreed at once; most of the others were soon induced to follow their example; and though a few held out for some time, they too became at last ashamed of thus differing from their comrades. It was then easy to establish punishments, chiefly of disgrace, for those who should violate this general engagement.

From the Same to the Same.

OUR journey is now completed ; we have joined the army stationed on the frontier. The camp is marked out on the declivity of a hill, which, commanding an extensive plain in our front, is supposed to afford an advantageous position. The enemy are on their march, and very shortly expected ; but no tidings of their immediate approach have yet reached us.

The army here, being composed chiefly of veterans, has afforded the opportunity of observing a higher standard of discipline ; and Corasmin conceives, that his

new levies stand still in great need of improvement. He is therefore employing assiduously the present interval. In establishing that prompt obedience, which is the most essential quality of the soldier, he has been studious to avoid those violent methods which are habitually employed in the army. Sallies of caprice and resentment, with the wanton and undistinguishing severities to which these prompt, they have never to dread from him. Examples indeed have been given, that no one can inflict punishment, when necessary, with more vigour and promptitude; but, in general, he is anxious to employ higher excitements. He distinguishes and applauds those who discover more than common proficiency; he bestows, with scrupulous attention to merit, any little appointments which may be at his disposal; he even proposes, for those who excel, prizes, small indeed in

value, but eagerly desired for the honour they confer.

The condition to which the troop has thus been brought, begins to attract general notice. The commander of the corps to which we are attached, is fortunately a man who loves and knows to distinguish merit. I heard lately his conversation : He expressed the highest admiration at the discipline to which this troop had been raised, and the perfect order in which it was maintained. “ I “ never hear complaints against them,” said he, “ as against all the others ; I “ hear of no disorders committed by “ them. This corps, small as it is, may “ serve as a model for the whole army.”

From the Same to the Same.

THE enemy are arrived. Two days ago intelligence was brought, of an immense force having been seen, advancing rapidly in this direction. Every new courier brought tidings of its nearer approach. Our eyes continued fixed on the quarter whence its appearance might be expected. A considerable time, however, elapsed without any symptoms of its actual arrival. At length a sound was heard, as of distant thunder, and clouds of dust, involving the whole horizon, came rolling towards us. The sound swelled by degrees, till we could plainly distinguish

the clang of armour, and the trampling of innumerable steeds. After some interval the vanguard appeared on the brow of an opposite eminence. It advanced; the rest followed in swift succession; and thus they continued pouring on in myriads, and covering the whole plain, till nothing could be seen beyond. The fierceness of their aspect, the wildness of their cries, the prodigious extent of ground which, wherever we turned our eyes, appeared covered by their legions; these could not, even by the most intrepid, be contemplated without some degree of awe. It was easy to see, that this spectacle had produced a deep impression on the minds of the army. They looked long wishfully, but in vain, for an end of this mighty inundation. Throughout all the quarters round, instead of the former gaiety and animation, reigned a deep and disconsolate silence. Corasmin was eager to dispel this panic; yet he judged

it expedient to wait till the first emotions of surprise and consternation had somewhat subsided. So long as these lasted, no arguments could be expected to produce much effect. Towards evening, however, he assembled and addressed them. He represented all that was sacred in the cause which they now stood pledged to defend. It was their country, (there was not on earth a holier name), their country, which perished, unless they saved it. From the moment they entered the field, it became their duty, in its 'cause, to set every danger at defiance. That cause was identified to them with all the most sacred domestic ties: for never was there a desolation so dreadful as that with which this land would be swept. But what was it that filled some breasts with alarm? A mere irregular and tumultuous crowd; a mass, which its own bulk would render unwieldy! How often had such vast armies been

routed by numbers far inferior. Courage and discipline, in both of which they were surely superior, chiefly decided the fate of battles. But the greater the superiority of numbers on the part of the enemy, the greater also would be the glory of vanquishing them.

On hearing this discourse, and still more in seeing the firm and undaunted countenance with which it was uttered, the spirits of the troops began to revive. No opportunity was lost by Corasmin of throwing out, as if incidentally, remarks of an encouraging nature. He was even willing to be overheard expressing similar sentiments to some of his brother officers; in which form it was considered more certain that they were real. Thus confidence is now, in a great degree, restored.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

ALTHOUGH I must at present trust chiefly to Fazil for giving you information of what we are doing, yet, as I cannot think of dropping our correspondence entirely, I snatch a short interval of leisure to write.

We remain on the defensive; and the enemy, for some reason unknown, have not yet made an attack. Still, however, we see the horizon bounded only by their tents and standards, while their bands roll tumultuously over the plain, like the waves of a tempestuous ocean.

My band being suited to skirmishes and light movements, I have solicited and obtained a station on the van of the army. Extreme caution, however, is necessary in the first enterprises, since, did these fail, all their fears would be confirmed. On this issue must greatly depend what they will hereafter be. The first object has been, perfectly to know the country on which we are to act,—every hillock, every bush, as if it had been my native ground. I have caused delineations to be made; I have formed connexions with the natives of the district, shepherds who, by traversing these mountains from infancy, have become intimate with all their recesses. All my emissaries are at work. I trust that scarcely one of the enemy's movements on this side can now escape me. This instant I learn, that a body is returning, laden with the booty of a fertile district in the neighbourhood. I know

the very road by which they must pass, the moment when they will be exposed to attack:—I fly!

FAZIL *to* ALTUNO.

THE first attempt of Corasmin has been crowned with brilliant success. Then was seen the value of men zealously attached to their commander, solicitous for his honour as for their own. Thus animated, they threw themselves fearless upon every danger. A considerable body of the enemy were routed, pursued to their camp, and a large booty recovered. This to the troops has been a good seasoning, and has tended, more

than any thing else could have done, to animate and reassure them. This exploit has been followed by others, and already Corasmin, with his little band, begin to draw the attention of the whole army. Even those allow him to be an active and able partisan, who know not for what greater things nature has destined him. But I, to whom that thought is ever present, tremble to think of this daring valour. He thinks not of himself, and that is but too natural to his ardent and generous character. He rushes delighted to the scene where his country may be served, and glory earned. But cruel were the chance by which such great hopes were prematurely blasted; wasted too, on objects so far beneath him. I grieve therefore when I see the general, who observes him so active and useful, calling him forth wherever any perilous service is to be performed. Surely, if he knew the much greater things of which

he is capable, he would not commit him so deeply in these. What an injustice to mankind, thus prematurely to expose one, whose lengthened life might be productive of such copious blessings; and what paltry benefits are these, for which it is staked! But if he thus neglects himself, it is ours to make him our care. If my life, thrown between him and danger, can shield him, be assured he is safe.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

THIS is a solemn letter. The awful, the eventful crisis is now approaching, and every heart is strung to meet it.

The movements in the enemy's camp, and the orders issued in consequence, leave little doubt that the grand attack will be made very speedily, probably even on the approaching day. I have started at this early hour, and now spend in writing to you a few of the moments allowed for sleep. From this high station I see the whole camp, which lies buried in slumber beneath. As the sun bursts from its eastern boundary, the thought involuntarily arises, to how many of those who now lie stretched before me it never will rise again. And I may be of that number; nature may for the last time be displaying her beauties before my eyes. But, down every coward thought. No! I am armed, and every mortal care at rest: I am prepared to devote myself for Cashmire. Still, among my present feelings, predominate hope for my country, and the eager desire of doing for her something, however

small, in this day of her fate. Oh! could but one evident good arise from my exertions! But already it is day; the trumpets sound; the camp is in motion; that of the enemy moves also: Soon, I trust, will you hear of Cashmire's triumph!

FAZIL *to* ALTUNO.

OH! my revered friend, in what circumstances do I write? Already you must have heard the fatal intelligence. What a calamity to Cashmire! what a death-blow to our hopes! Throughout all this host, nothing but rout and disorder reign; its bands are scattered in confu-

sion over the plains, while the barbarous legions follow close behind, laying all desolate. But in this moment of tumultuous haste I have only time to write you of Corasmin. He has surpassed all our expectations; his country's fall has covered him with glory. Soon shall I snatch an hour to write you the wonders he has achieved. At present I am interrupted; I must hasten away.

From the Same to the Same.

I AM now able, though still in haste, to perform the promise with which I concluded my last.

We were not mistaken in our anticipation of being attacked on the very day that Corasmin wrote. Early in the morning the enemy's whole army were drawn out in order of battle, and, soon after, this immense body began moving towards us. The air rung with loud shouts and clashing of arms. The barbarians made the onset with desperate valour, animated by the hopes of plunder and victory. For some time we maintained our ground against the utmost fury of their attacks. But the centre then began to give way: it was soon followed by the opposite wing, and by part of that in which we were stationed. Our division still held out, being commanded by an officer of distinguished conduct and bravery. At length it became necessary for it also to retreat, in order to avoid being surrounded. Then it was that all the powers of Corasmin were called forth: That hour of his

country's danger rendered him more than man. Calm, as if no danger existed, he exhausted upon his men every resource of command, of entreaty, of reproach; that the panic, which was spreading so rapidly from rank to rank, might stop there. It was impossible altogether to shut out the contagion; the confusion of a moment ensued: but soon his voice, his example, revived their courage; they assembled; and, while the field was strewn with the scattered bands of their countrymen, alone presented an unbroken front to the enemy. He instantly saw the use that might be made of them: He led them to the pass, whose cliffs, almost meeting, narrowed the scene of contest, and rendered numbers unavailing. The enemy, enraged to see their career stopped by so small a barrier, collected their whole strength for a furious attack; but their charge was received in such a manner as deterred them, for a

long interval, from repeating it. Their second effort, with augmented means, proved equally fruitless. Thus was Corasmin enabled to keep his ground, till all the division had retired, without serious loss. He then followed, almost unmolested ; such was the awe with which the enemy had been inspired.

Your young friend has received all the congratulations due to his merit, now universally recognized. Zamri, the officer who commands the division, is one who can fully appreciate it. I overheard him say, " Oh ! that I had an army that " would thus follow me : we should then " be invincible !"

From the Same to the Same.

OH! my revered friend, what news have I now to give! How dreadful a loss, mingled though it be with high consolation. Why should all that is most noble in human nature be but the path which leads to an untimely fate?

Our arms could no longer resist the barbarous torrent, which swept every thing before it. All Cashmire, it is feared, must become its victim. There remained one fortress, not strong, but so happily situated, that, while it stood, their progress must be suspended. Yet how to find a person to whom such a charge could be safely entrusted, or who

would dare to undertake it! Its fall seemed inevitable, before relief could be brought; and when it fell, the experienced ferocity of the enemy left no doubt as to the fate which awaited its defenders. To him who entered, slender indeed was the hope of returning. Yet some one must be found; and Zamri, who had acquired great consideration by his conduct in the late engagement, was referred to, as the most likely to chuse well. Conceiving that so perilous a service should, if possible, be voluntary, he assembled the principal among the subordinate officers: He represented to them the vast importance of this service, which would afford time for the formation of a new army, and would meanwhile preserve the country behind from the most horrible devastation. He wished not, however, to conceal the danger which attended it; he wished that it should be voluntarily encountered. My heart then misgave

me, for I instantly saw how it would be. Not a moment elapsed till the offer was made by my friend : He sprung to embrace it, as if it had been the most brilliant lot which man could offer. The inevitable danger was unseen, unfelt ; he saw only, that if he could do it, Cashmire was saved. I perceived a struggle in the soul of Zamri. He looked and hovered, as unwilling to seal so hard a doom ; still looked around, as if for some less costly sacrifice. The offer was made ; none followed : there was no other hope for Cashmire. At length, in a tone of mingled grief and admiration, he gave his consent.

Such, my illustrious friend, such is the fate which impends over him whom you so anxiously reared, and to whose manhood you looked forward with such high and well-founded hopes. All our consolation is, that he will not have perished without leaving behind some

monument worthy of him. Brilliant indeed, though most short, will have been his career : Nations will share the sacred sorrow. Zamri, I say it with sad pleasure, feels all the greatness of the sacrifice he is making.

Corasmin has not one moment to spare from his country ; he cannot write, even to *you*. I enclose some short directions, dictated by tender anxiety for his friends, which will, I presume, be received as a law by all to whom they relate. He addresses them to you, as to his first earthly benefactor. Farewell ; a solemn farewell !

From the Same to the Same.

To you, who must feel the most eager interest, I hasten to communicate all that has happened since the eventful moment when I last wrote. Corasmin, having offered himself for so perilous a service, received full permission to select his instruments. He accordingly assembled his own troops, and communicated to them this new destination. Seeing many not a little stunned by the intelligence, he addressed them at some length. He represented the high honour of being called to a service so important, and the vast advantages which would result from their successfully performing it. Their

superiority over the enemy had now been proved; and, notwithstanding what was said of the weakness of the fortress, their valour, he trusted, would maintain it much longer than was expected; and even till a new army should come to relieve it. With what veneration would their name be pronounced throughout Cashmire, when it should be known that they had arrested the progress of the barbarians, and preserved so great a part of it from devastation! Yet they were well aware that this was no easy or ordinary service: If any, therefore, were desirous of shunning it, they were not only permitted, but exhorted to do so. After this speech every symptom of fear vanished; all strove which should be foremost to express their ardour in the cause, and their resolution never to desert their commander. Many brave men from the neighbouring regiments then voluntarily offered their services, and

were placed under the command of Corasmin; so that he soon found himself at the head of a body, in which he could place the utmost confidence.

All these arrangements were made in haste, on account of the close pressure of the enemy behind; and, when they were completed, Corasmin had merely time to throw himself into the fortress. I need scarcely tell you that I was among his followers. I could not myself have soared to that height, but he supported me: Him I could never desert. Thus we buried ourselves in that living tomb. The troops had hitherto been supported by the sympathy of their comrades, by the applauses of the whole army; but the trial now came. Our forces rapidly disappeared, till not a Cashmirian ensign was seen in the farthest distance. Then were heard wild shouts and barbarous music: the vast tide now began to flow, and soon an ocean was rolled around us.

At that sight we beheld many a cheek tinged with the hue of despair. It must be instantly banished. Corasmin repeated all his former arguments, ran from post to post, presenting every-where an undaunted countenance : In fine, he reminded them, that exertions the most extraordinary were now, to them, not glory only, but the sole hope of safety. It was only by a zeal and activity, yet unexampled, that they could now either serve their country or save themselves.

Meantime the enemy's whole force was round us, and formed a circle of immeasurable depth on every side. It was easy to read in their countenances an expression of contempt, and of rage, that their progress should be arrested by so feeble an obstacle. Their first attempt was to carry the place at once by a general assault ; but this project was calculated only upon the supposition of panic in the garrison : It was

completely repulsed. They then found it necessary to wait till a breach could be effected. Their commander chose with skill the part of the wall which was most vulnerable: all their machines were then brought forward, and began to beat against it with incessant fury. Our commander foresaw, that in a few days a breach must be effected; and, unless some extraordinary means of defence were employed, the place must fall. He conceived the project of raising a new wall, which, when the present should give way, might supply its place. The means seemed scarcely adequate; yet this only impelled him to more ardent exertions. He set the example of joining himself in the humblest part of the labour; and when materials were wanted, caused his own house to be first demolished.

Meanwhile the operations of the enemy were advancing, and, on the fifth

day of the siege, they judged the time to be come for a general assault. Accordingly, on the morning of that day, they brought forward a machine more powerful than any yet employed, and drove it with such force against the wall, that a great part of it was instantly thrown down. The barbarians rushed on with shouts of triumph, eager to sacrifice the whole garrison to their fury. Then it was that they beheld the new wall rising behind, and were overwhelmed with a shower of darts thrown from it. Struck with astonishment and consternation, they instantly turned their backs. The garrison presently sallied out, pursued them to a considerable distance, and destroyed or carried off most of the machinery employed in the attack.

An important respite was thus obtained; yet, in process of time the enemy's machines were restored, and their operations began to proceed with the same

ardour as before. They were now carried on from different quarters at once ; and from this circumstance, as well as from the want of materials, it was impossible to think of our former mode of frustrating them. From being divided, however, they necessarily became less vigorous, and all our efforts were directed to protract the resistance as long as possible. Every day, and sometimes oftener, the enemy made an attack on three or four different points : it was then necessary for Corasmin, multiplying himself, as it were, to fly from post to post, and to be present every-where at the same moment. The enthusiastic attachment of the garrison, as well as the judicious directions which he gave, made his presence produce always a wonderful effect. He touched the springs which move vulgar passions ; feeling that, in this his country's extremity, every instrument must be called to its aid.

Could any one strike a blow at that chieftain, who now exhibited himself in a manner so insulting? Could they sweep off some of the plumes which this cohort so ostentatiously displayed? The enemy supposed that they had mere boys to contend with; they must be taught a different lesson. With an air of high and occult wisdom, which he knew would sink deeper than any argument, he foretold, that ere long the pride of the foe would be humbled. By urging them to perpetual activity, by keeping the passions always awake, he veiled from their eyes the fate which now darker and darker impended: For barrier after barrier gave way; the work of destruction advanced with a rapidity which no speed could repair. Corasmin began to revolve dreadful thoughts of what was to be done, when the utmost extremity came; how, in death as in life, to do the utmost for his country: whether

to bury himself in the ruins, with a mighty destruction of the enemy ; or whether, penetrating their ranks, to save at least a remnant of his gallant band. Just, however, as despair began to reach its height, a sentinel stationed on the top of a watch-tower gave notice, that he had descried Cashmirian ensigns passing over the summit of a neighbouring mountain. On ascending, they were no more to be seen ; yet the confidence placed in the reporter induced us to wait patiently for another day. Soon after, an assault was made by the enemy on all sides, and was continued for several hours with the utmost fury. The fortress was repeatedly in the most imminent danger ; nor was it without prodigious efforts, and the loss of many brave men, that the enemy were at length repulsed. It was evident that we could not stand the repetition of such an assault. Soon, however, we were surprised by observing in

the enemy's camp an extraordinary activity, which did not appear to be directed against us. It continued till towards evening, when that part of the circle which was on the side of Cashmire opened, and, spreading on both sides, formed an extensive line behind the fortress. The army then, forming itself into columns, marched towards the north, and proceeded for some time in that direction, after which we beheld them halt and pitch their tents. Immediately after, from an opposite quarter, the Cashmirian army burst upon our view, with music sounding, and all its ensigns waving. Doubts and fears now vanished, and were succeeded by ecstasies of joy and triumph. We marched out to meet our countrymen, and were received in a manner the most gratifying. The congratulations which poured in from every side, the meeting of comrades who expected never to have met again, all ren-

dered this a delightful scene. On passing to the tent of the commander in chief, we were struck with a superior degree of order and discipline to that which formerly prevailed. This was explained when we discovered, that the place was now held by Zamri. In this crisis of danger, his acknowledged merit, prevailing over intrigue and favour, had raised him to that high situation. He gave us the most gratifying reception, and received from Corasmin a full account of the manner in which the siege had been conducted. Having learned also the names of those who had peculiarly distinguished themselves, he expressed to them, in the most handsome manner, his sense of their gallant conduct, adding liberal promises of promotion.

I must now conclude this long letter, of which, however, I am not afraid of your having tired.—Thus has your young

friend been recalled to life, and to the enjoyment of the glory so dearly earned. As for myself, I can claim no other merit than that unalterable adherence to his fortunes, by which my conduct, I trust, will ever be guided.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

MY dear Friend,—The approbation expressed in your last letter gratifies me most highly ; but, indeed, I cannot but think that you have been too lavish of your praise. To have had an opportunity of doing thus much for my country, is doubtless a singular felicity. But what have I done which was not dictat-

ed by the simplest duty? When Cashmire saw her existence in danger, could there be a thought, a passion, but how to save her? Who would not devote all his feeble efforts to prop the tottering fabric? and if, which I trust will never be, the destined period of her fate should come, who would not fall along with her? But fortune placed me in a post on which the common safety depended, and was I to shrink? Is there a man that, so placed, would have acted otherwise? Even now I recollect many things which I might have done, and did not do at the critical moment; and which, had not fortune, or the activity of our commander, repaired them, might have seriously injured our cause.

Never was there a friendship so faithful, so devoted as that of Fazil. I lamented the dangers into which it drew him, rather following me than led by a native impulse. But these common

perils through which we have passed, must render the tie between us more than ever indissoluble.

FAZIL to ALTUNO.

SINCE I wrote you last no important military event has taken place; nor, indeed, is any likely to occur immediately. On considering the impression of terror which still remains from our late overthrow, Zamri judges it most expedient, till that be worn off, to avoid a new action. Corasmin is now in high favour with him, and has received an appointment, by which he is retained constantly near his person. He is employed, consulted.

upon all occasions; and experience has peculiarly qualified him for giving aid and advice in the species of warfare which is now pursued. The general, however, is careful no longer to expose, as formerly, a life of which he now knows the full value. He employs him chiefly in contriving schemes, in giving directions, and allows him not to execute, unless where something of real importance is to be done.

There are some other respects in which our general may derive valuable aid from his young friend. In all essential particulars his character rises with more intimate knowledge. But his manners are somewhat reserved and haughty, ill calculated for gaining the affections of the army. In the infliction of punishment or censure, he is rather too rigid; always correct in his own conduct, he makes not sufficient allowance for any failure in others. It were desirable that he

could soften this extreme severity, and acquire a little more affability and courtesy. Thus, Corasmin finds frequent occasion to intercede in favour of those who appear to him guilty only of venial errors. Yet he himself is not wholly exempt from odium, consequent on his present elevation. As he remains, however, the same to all, and has assumed no airs of haughty superiority, this sentiment is confined to a few.

FAZIL *to* ALTUNO.

AGAIN we are on the eve of great events. The discipline and courage of the troops are now raised to such a

pitch, while those of the enemy have been visibly lowered, that Zamri conceives a grand attack may be safely hazarded. All is busy in preparation; the different posts are assigned to each, and a very few days will elapse till all the fortunes of Cashmire are again committed to this issue. I look forward with a mixture of exultation and dread to this contest, and to the part which my friend is to act: for well I know that he will shun no danger, will consider no effort, no risk of his as great, if it can at all contribute to ensure success. Meanwhile, the camp is full of animation and hope; and every thing seems to augur a happier issue to the present than to the former contest.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

THE high-raised expectations indulged when you last heard from us, have not been fulfilled. Just as we were marching to battle, confident of victory, and in the full glow of military ardour, our career was arrested by *peace*. The enemy had asked peace, and obtained it. This intelligence has diffused through the camp a general gloom. It has annihilated our promised triumph, and has blasted those hopes of glory and promotion, which many were fondly indulging. I think I can even discern through the veil of a dignified silence, that Zamri is somewhat chagrined at the stop thus put to

his prosperous career. I believe him ready to prefer the national good to every private consideration ; but, bred to arms from early youth, he has been accustomed to view every object as subordinate to military success ; and he had formed the most sanguine expectations of that which we were on the eve of obtaining.

For myself I had my hopes too, and felt, I confess, somewhat damped by the first tidings. On a short consideration, however, my views changed greatly. I do not find that the terms can be stigmatized as injurious or dishonourable ; nor that serious danger can ensue from this peace being granted. I see none, then, but happy consequences likely to flow from it. I cannot forbear to join in the general joy which it will diffuse throughout Cashmire ; nor can lament over that which will make thousands happy, and will spare so many scenes of bloodshed and calamity.

This event will make a great change in my own situation ; but I have had no time as yet to think of such a subject.

From the Same to the Same.

WE are still encamped, and will so continue, until the enemy shall have entirely withdrawn. Great part of the army is now about to be disbanded ; but Zamri has offered to secure my continuance, and even my further promotion. But, as the immediate call for military exertion has ceased, my views are no longer the same. Now that my country is saved, there is nothing to lure me to fields of carnage. I may now hope to

benefit mankind in a manner more direct and more pleasing. My first hopes and wishes revive; and the present moment seems favourable for their fulfilment. I have communicated these views to Zamri; but to him, in whose eyes no life, unless a military one, has any attractions, they appeared altogether surprising. "What!" said he, "after so brilliant an opening, when you were rapidly rising to the height of military honours, when you might aspire to fill the highest commands, thus to stop short; suddenly to descend into a more inglorious station! I cannot reconcile it to my idea of your character. Surely you will think a second time, before you fix such a resolution." Nothing of all this, however, had any effect in changing my intention, and I endeavoured, though without success, to make him feel the force of my reasons. However, seeing me immoveable, he said, "Well, at all

events you may depend upon me as your friend : Since such is your choice, I will exert myself to fulfil it."

I have written also to my uncle, and wait, with some anxiety, to hear his views on the subject; since, were they unfavourable, considerable obstacles would be opposed to the fulfilment of my views.

From the Same to the Same.

I RECEIVED the enclosed from my uncle. He has viewed the subject in a light which I did not precisely either intend or expect. However, he is disposed to act a friendly part, and with this I may rest satisfied.

CABULI *to* CORASMIN.

You write me, that you wish to proceed no farther in your military career, but rather to exchange it for some civil employment. Well, I am not sure that you judge wrong. The prospects of advancement are fully as good in one line as in the other. Besides, I believe you will find yourself to have acted not unwisely in attaching yourself to me, rather than to any other person who might be disposed to forward you in the world. My influence at court is at least as great. Whoever is favoured by me, will, I believe, have himself to blame if he does not rise to something. Zamri

merely got forward, because at the moment they could not do without him; but it will not last: he does not understand the art of establishing himself at court. I will get you a place. But this new course requires more caution and circumspection; more regard to common rules, and the maxims of experience. Hereafter, however, I will have opportunities of explaining myself to you at full length upon this subject.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

I AM now returned to the capital, and reside, in compliance with a pressing invitation, with Zingani. I have no doubt,

through the influence of my uncle and of my newly acquired friends, of being soon in the situation I wish for. Nor am I at all impatient for the arrival of that period, but rather solicitous to obtain a further interval, for qualifying myself to fulfil its duties. You know this study not to be new to me; but I possess here some superior advantages for pursuing it. I can converse with men who know all its practical details; who can give me a variety of important information, not formerly within my reach. Above all, I enjoy the society of two friends, united in sentiment and pursuit, and with whom I can exchange ideas on every subject without reserve. I have now been introduced to a third, whose friendship, if not quite so pleasing, is equally valuable. His name is Actemad. He possesses neither the brilliancy of Alvanda, nor the elegance of Zingani. His is a firm, steady, and use-

ful character ; excellent above all for the details of business, and for obtaining correct information on matters of fact. He fails chiefly in extensive views, and in suiting his conduct to sudden emergencies. Most of his intellectual defects, however, are balanced by opposite qualities in the other two ;—thus they mutually correct and improve each other.

To escape occasionally from the tumult and interruptions of the capital, we have secured in common a small rural residence, entirely withdrawn from the public eye, and which looks only over the plain of Cashmire, and the awful range of mountains beyond. Here we can live in perfect freedom, can compare our ideas on every subject, can revolve every thing connected with public virtue and human happiness. What a near approach to heaven ! That public good, which is elsewhere only language, is here, interest, passion : all subjects re-

lating to it are treated with that tempered warmth, which the sole love of truth inspires. If differences of opinion, which cannot but occur, become occasionally warm, still the common sentiments from which they arise, the mutual attachment with which they are combined, check them ere they reach any painful height. Meanwhile, fancy dresses every interval in glowing colours, and nature spreads all her enchantments around. Day after day rolls on, and finds us still there.

FAZIL *to* ALTUNO.

I AM happy to inform you that Corasmin is now in a situation such as he

wished, and which he will fill, I trust, with great public advantage. It is one of considerably greater importance than we had anticipated; and such as his anxious reflection on its duties almost leads him to shrink from. His uncle takes the entire merit of the appointment, and certainly has some; but I have reason to believe the interference of other friends to have been very active and effectual. The duties attached to it consist in the superintendence of a district, which lies about ten or twelve leagues from the metropolis. It is an office to which various and extensive authority is attached; subordinate, in the provinces, to the governor, but here immediately to the sovereign. It is one, in short, where there is much to do, and where much good may be done.

Corasmin has already been congratulated by his three friends, who have agreed to accompany, and spend a few

days with him at his new residence. He is now busily employed in acquiring that local and particular information, which forms an indispensable preparation for his new employment.

CABULI *to* CORASMIN.

WELL, my dear Nephew, you find I have kept my word. You have got a place; one fully as considerable, too, as you probably expected. Now, it really is time for me to give you some serious advice. You have played a deep game. I know not that I could quite have advised you to it; however, it has succeed-

ed, and I congratulate you. You have laid in a stock of reputation, which will materially help you forward. Your present situation is very different : there is an absolute necessity, now, for acting like an inhabitant of this world. You must lay aside romantic and college notions, and must do as all others do in your place. Your friends have placed you in an excellent situation, where, with any prudence and management at all, you may raise a fine fortune, even though it should never lead to any thing higher. Only consider what your predecessor has made of it : An excellent, prudent man ! I hope to see you treading in his footsteps. What if some idle murmurs were raised against him in his district ! these never reached the court, nor ever, that I could learn, occasioned him the smallest inconvenience. It would be quite endless, were one to be constantly listening to things of that nature. You, I

trust, will never pay the smallest attention to them.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

MUCH indeed, much more than I had originally contemplated, is here to be done. Some affairs there are, which lie not within my controul, in which I am only an instrument; and if I disapprove, it must be in silence. But the greater part of what I lament is within my own power to correct. At first, though it was easy to see that affairs went on ill, it was difficult to penetrate into the real causes. By degrees I succeeded in lifting the veil. I found that oppression, in many instances, had been formed into

a system: the Crown was defrauded, yet the people suffered. Arbitrary measures and exactions were frequent, against any who had given offence to those in power, or even who had only the crime of being opulent. The people thus lost all motives to exertion; they sunk into indolence and apathy. It was impossible to eradicate at once evils so extensive, and so deeply rooted. I have begun by prohibiting those abuses which are most flagrant, and cannot be defended even by those who commit them. Strenuous opposition is made; every inch of ground fiercely disputed; but I am fortunately possessed of authority sufficient to render all resistance unavailing.

On my arrival I was received with ostentatious demonstrations of joy, beyond what, considering the little that was known of me, it was easy to give credit to. Much and eager court was paid; yet was it easy to see, that I met no real

welcome ; that by the majority I was regarded only as a new vulture, that came to fatten on their spoils. This judgment, I believe, has somewhat changed : By most, I now find myself regarded as a friend. Yet I see with pain, what indeed you warned me to expect, that in a course of active duty, enmity, bitter enmity, must be encountered. I see well that I have enemies, and why ; and all my care must be to guard against affording them any real cause of hostility.

FAZIL *to* ALTUNO.

THE fruit of Corasmin's labours is now becoming visible. The people begin to breathe, industry to revive, and a gene-

ral satisfaction to diffuse itself. On the other hand, so little is this relief afforded at the expense of the Crown, that he will be able to transmit to the treasury a sum considerably larger than has hitherto been usual. This must surely silence all the insinuations of his enemies ; for enemies he has, as well as sage friends, who shake their heads, and foretel, that no good will come of all that he is doing. Cabuli, above all, gives frequent advices to stop, and pursue a different course. But Corasmin has not taken a single step which it is possible to retrace ; and if, for a certain interval, he suspends his operations, he does so, not from any personal apprehension, but because public advantage forbids all changes but such as are moderate and gradual. Whatever, therefore, the consequence may be, and I trust the sinistrous auguries now made are without foundation, he goes on, and calmly expects it.

CABULI *to* ALTUNO.

You, who are so much Corasmin's friend, I apply to, in order to induce him, if possible, to change his present conduct. It is enough to say, that it is not such as I can at all approve, or expect any but the worst consequences from. A very judicious friend of mine, who lives near him, writes me, that he does not appear to understand his business at all. He employs himself about matters of no consequence, and that were much better omitted. He offends the persons whom he ought most to court, in order to please others that can be of no use to him whatever. But the

misfortune is, he never communicates with me on any one subject; follows always his own plan; and whatever advice I give is indeed politely received, but never adopted. His comrades, who, I once thought, might have been creditable and useful to him, have proved the very worst he could possibly have selected: They encourage him, I understand, in all his foolish proceedings. In short, you may rest assured, that, unless he changes his plan, and follows the advice of wiser heads, he will do no good. I cannot answer how soon he may feel the consequences.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

I HAVE long been accustomed to make you the confidant, both of my prosperous and adverse fortune. It is the latter which I have now to communicate. This will be best done by sending you a copy of two letters which I have received, immediately following each other. The first is from my friend Zingani.

“ My dear Friend,—I need not say
“ how sorry I am to be the messenger of
“ ill news. You are no stranger to the
“ intrigues carried on by those whose in-
“ terests your late measures have thwart-
“ ed. But though these had greater suc-

“ less than they merited, they would
 “ not, I am persuaded, have fully attain-
 “ ed their object, but for an event which
 “ ought to have entirely frustrated them,
 “ —I mean, the largeness of your late
 “ remittance into the treasury. All who
 “ are in the same situation have taken
 “ the alarm : they think that yours will
 “ be the standard by which their contri-
 “ butions will be measured : they judge it
 “ necessary to crush you. What are the
 “ methods employed I cannot fully trace,
 “ but I know that the royal ear is power-
 “ fully assailed. They appeal to the nu-
 “ merous complaints made against you,
 “ which cannot, it is alleged, be all with-
 “ out foundation. “ If,” say they, “ you
 “ place him in a battle, he can fight ; but
 “ for his present situation he is wholly
 “ unfit.” In short, nothing less is now
 “ talked of than your immediate remo-
 “ val. We, of course, are doing every
 “ thing in our power ; but how difficult

“ is it for truth to penetrate through
 “ such a phalanx of fierce and powerful
 “ enemies.—I have just met your uncle,
 “ who said he was about to write, and
 “ point out a mode by which you might
 “ completely extricate yourself. My
 “ doubts are great, whether his plan
 “ will be such as you will be disposed to
 “ adopt. I heartily wish you better suc-
 “ cess than I am afraid is promised by
 “ the present aspect of affairs.”

Accordingly, not long after, I received the following from my uncle :—“ I am
 “ disposed to make every allowance for
 “ your youth and inexperience ; nor do
 “ I entirely disapprove the attempt you
 “ have made to distinguish yourself. The
 “ truth is, however, that it has not suc-
 “ ceeded at all, but has made such an
 “ addition to the enemies whom you had
 “ already taken care to raise up, as you
 “ will find it quite impossible to resist,

“ unless by an immediate change of con-
 “ duct. I cannot otherwise answer for
 “ your remaining another day in your
 “ present situation. You had better,
 “ therefore, give up any new and extra-
 “ ordinary means of advancement, and
 “ content yourself with getting forward
 “ as your predecessors have done. The
 “ Crown will be perfectly satisfied with
 “ receiving as much as it has formerly
 “ been accustomed to. On the other
 “ hand, if those under you take too much
 “ from the people, you can make them
 “ feel the necessity of allowing you to
 “ come in for a share. My advice there-
 “ fore is, that without delay you endea-
 “ vour to make up matters with them,
 “ and I will attempt to perform the same
 “ office for you at court.”

My answers were as follow; first to
 my friend :—“ I am much obliged to you
 “ for informing me of the dangers with

“ which I am threatened. I see nothing
 “ that I can do. The practices which I
 “ have suppressed were such as it was
 “ utterly impossible to overlook, far less
 “ to sanction. I intend, therefore, to
 “ go on as before, and wait with tran-
 “ quillity the issue. I cannot have a
 “ doubt, that every service in your
 “ power will be rendered to me by you
 “ and my other friends.”

The other, to my uncle :—

“ I am much indebted to you for your
 “ advice, and the services which you
 “ offer to render me. But I had taken
 “ no measures which did not appear to
 “ be my indispensable duty, and there-
 “ fore I cannot possibly recede. My
 “ aim, in entering into public life, was
 “ to be useful to the public : If this can-
 “ not be fulfilled, I am perfectly willing
 “ to return to a private station.”

I have since received an answer, in which he says, that he can do nothing for me, unless I do something for myself; and that, without an immediate change of conduct, I must inevitably fall a victim to my own infatuation. Having no intention of making any such change, there remains no prospect but of immediate removal.

FAZIL to ALTUNO.

THE anticipations of Çorasmin were well founded. He was not long of receiving an intimation, that his services would be dispensed with, and that a successor had been already appointed. He

received it with calmness and constancy, and with a sorrow which evidently arose only from reflecting on those from whom his protection was to be withdrawn. The persons in office waited upon him with a few formal expressions of regret; through which it was easy to discover their secret joy. Few of the other inhabitants ventured fully to express their feelings; but their deep silence, a variety of quiet unnoticed attentions, sufficiently testified, that his departure was to them matter of real sorrow.

It was understood, and indeed half intimated, that the new superintendant, and his supporters, rather expected Corasmin to take his departure previous to the arrival of his successor. But this hint, though meant perhaps in kindness, he entirely rejected. "No," said he, "I will not steal off, as if ashamed or guilty; I will go suitably, and as I ought. I must deliver the affairs into

his hands entire, and give all the requisite information. I will perform this painful duty." He waited accordingly. But on the day previous to the announced arrival, an alarm was spread, of such a ferment having arisen in the minds of the inhabitants, as gave reason to apprehend that some tumult might take place. Corasmin felt extreme anxiety at this rumour : not a moment was to be lost in providing against such an event. He addressed himself to those whom he knew to possess the chief influence over the minds of the people. He inculcated upon them the urgent necessity of exertion, in order to prevent the slightest symptom of what was dreaded. " I leave you," said he, " with regret. I should gladly have devoted myself longer to your welfare. I am gratified to learn that you entertain similar sentiments ; but I shall measure the degree of your attachment by the entire absence

to-morrow, of every disorder. That power which has the sole right of appointing, formerly appointed me, now another : there is no cause of complaint : There will not, I trust, be heard even a murmur ; your duty, your welfare, *my* welfare demands it." Thus he bound them, by the most solemn engagements, not to exhibit even a preference.

Next day, accordingly, the expected person arrived, and all passed as could have been desired. The people were assembled, and ranged in rows on each side ; but it was evident how deep the injunctions of Corasmin had sunk into their minds. Not a sound was heard ; but how eloquent was that silence ! It was easy for the new ruler to see, that there was no welcome for him. When they were together, Corasmin endeavoured, in the manner least likely to revolt, to recommend some measures of evident advantage, which he hoped to have saved.

The other replied with a hasty and superficial politeness, then passed on to another subject; in a manner clearly to intimate, that what had been the practice of his predecessor, was not likely to be his. Corasmin saw, and desisted.

CABULI *to* CORASMIN.

WELL, my good sir, you now see that I was not quite so much mistaken as you imagined. I always told you to what these high-sounding, impracticable notions would lead; instilled by one that had quite forgotten the court, and life. Had you been to pass your days like him, in some wild retirement, they

might have been harmless enough. But for one who was introduced into the world, in the high-road to fortune, they were quite unsuitable. You see now to what they have brought you. It was in vain that I gave my advice, though perhaps quite as likely to be good as that of an old hermit, or a few headstrong boys. I can do nothing for you now : I see nothing you have left, but to return into the desert that I drew you out of. I promised certainly to make your fortune, and fully intended it ; but always on condition of your following my advice, which you cannot pretend to have done in any degree. If you chuse to spend a little time with me, before your setting out, you will be welcome ; but possibly, after what has happened, you may not be very fond of shewing yourself in this metropolis.

CABULI *to* ALTUNO.

No doubt you have heard, by this time, what has become of Corasmin : all my pains on him have been lost. I wish to explain to you, that it was not my fault ; all that I could do was done : his ruin is entirely his own work. Some one had instilled into him extravagant, impracticable notions, that no man in the world could possibly get on with. Who it was, I cannot say. You, with whom he used to live so much, may possibly form some conjecture. Had the boy dropt me the slightest hint of what he was meditating, I could instantly have told him what would be the con-

sequence. But, no; my first intelligence, as usual, came after the evil had been done. In short, you may rest assured he is one of whom nothing whatever can be made.

ALTUNO to CABULI.

You may rest assured, that I impute to you no blame whatever on the subject of Corasmin. Think as we may of the prudence of his conduct, it will never, I trust, injure him in the opinion of any worthy man, or any friend to his country. But the case, I flatter myself, is not so desperate as you seem to apprehend. I trust that all will yet be well,

and that his star will only shine brighter from this transient eclipse.

ALTUNO *to* CORASMIN.

I CONGRATULATE, I almost envy you the opportunity of making so noble a sacrifice to public virtue. Such an event might indeed have been humbling; but to suffer, because you adhered to your duty to your king, and to those with whose welfare he entrusted you, and were guiltless towards those who sought your downfall,—this is a lot than which no higher could befall any mortal. I am far prouder of my pupil, than if I had seen him blazing in the highest splendor

to which fortune could raise him. But you speak of returning, and burying yourself at Patala. No, you must not. Because an unworthy combination has prevailed; because the gates of public life are for the moment barred against you, consider them not as shut for ever. Think not yet of living for yourself alone. You must not abandon Cashmire because she has wronged you. There is nothing as yet to cancel her claim to be the supreme object of your affections. But diligently use this interval, in preparing yourself for that destiny, which, I trust, still awaits you. Think you that to govern mankind is an easy task? A life, even long, were still too short for preparation. Turn not your views, then, to any ignobler object; but let those stores of independent enjoyment which exist within you, enable you to await with tranquillity every issue.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

I COMPLY with your urgency, and that of my friends, though still with reluctance, even sorrow. I had felt the thorns with which public life is so thickly set: I enjoyed with new relish the liberty and all the enjoyments of private life. Pleasing was the prospect of a return to my native shades, whither many a regretted charm recalled me. Though I know well all the zeal and activity of my friends, my own expectations are small. But I am anxious to convince myself and others, that no feelings of disappointment and mortified pride induce me to decline the hope of serving my country. Not only

then do I stay, but I have even made an arrangement with my three friends, the object of which is to qualify myself more fully for such a station, should it ever again become mine. We propose to make a journey through Cashmire, particularly those provinces which we have not yet visited. The information, both general and individual, which such an excursion must enable us to collect, may probably be most important. I delay my departure only till I shall have seen Zamri, who is expected in town in a few days.

I find myself now deserted by many of those who paid court to my rising fortunes. This is rather a cheerless experience, but it is valuable: I can now distinguish between real and pretended friends. Happily, among the former have been found those on whose attachment I placed the chief value. The three with whom I had been peculiarly

united, have thoroughly stood the test. From my uncle I had nothing to expect, after having declined his advice, and having lost that which formed his standard of merit. I have avoided, however, coming to an open rupture with him.

FAZIL *to* ALTUNO.

WE are all much indebted to you, for having aided so powerfully in dissuading Corasmin from the plan, towards which his inclination seemed strongly bent, of retiring altogether from public life. My expectations became every day more sanguine. His glorious and unmerited fall has rendered him the main hope of all to whom justice, honour, and the

interests of their country are dear; and many such there are, even who breathe this infected air. Nay, I speak with confidence when I say, that the sovereign himself sacrifices only because he does not know him. All this, I trust, will one day be fully disclosed.

There is one circumstance which has been the object of considerable and anxious interest;—Zamri arrived. To this we looked forward, in the full expectation of receiving from him a very early visit. It was not so: Not only did he not visit his friend; he even studiously, as was evident, declined an interview. Was he so thoroughly deceived by our enemies, as to refuse even to hear a justification? or did he too change with changing fortune? We could not believe it, yet still were anxious. At length Corasmin began to consider the means of extorting an explanation; and we sat deliberating upon this subject, when the door was

thrown open, and Zamri himself appeared. He came with outstretched arms, and with an air of entire cordiality; then addressed himself to Corasmin with a warmth of friendship never before witnessed. "You are probably surprised at not having seen me; I know not even what you are thinking; but I had heard much against you, and from many. I did not believe it; yet I wished, that before we met there should not remain the slightest cloud to shade our ancient cordiality. I have now fully examined the subject: I do not acquit you only, I applaud, I admire! You may command my services, though, let me merely observe, that had you remained with me nothing of this nature could ever have happened." It was evident that a gentle reproach was insinuated; but Corasmin, while assenting to the observation, did not enter into any discussion. In short, they parted, with the fullest assur-

ance from Zamri of his cordial good offices.

His mind at ease upon this subject, my friend lost no time in setting out with Zingani and Actemad on their proposed excursion. I determined, however, to remain here, in order to watch over his interests. Alvanda is also detained, which I regard as fortunate, since he will be at hand to render any services for which there may be occasion.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

I HAVE completed my journey, which was lengthened considerably beyond my original intention. It gave rise to deep

and various emotion; sometimes of unmixed pleasure, but chequered sometimes with very painful sensations. We had access to all the means of information, and were furnished with letters to respectable and intelligent persons in every quarter. Actemad has completely the talent of collecting information;—Zingani, that of forming general views, and suggesting various reflections upon it. The different branches of industry, the administration of justice, the manners of the people, the means of public instruction—these were the principal objects of our attention. We viewed the situation of all ranks; inquired into all employments, how they were exercised, and to what extent; all the dealings of the government with the people: we tried them by the ascertained rules of political wisdom. We then saw clearly why the bounties of nature were lavished in vain. Comparing the vast capaci-

ties, the exuberant fertility of this plain, with the sufferings of its inhabitants, the most painful emotions arose. How cruel to see man pining amid the lavish profusion of nature ! Oh ! that the sacred envied power were ours, to redress these wrongs, to make the oppressed reap the hard fruits of their industry ! These fields ravaged, not by foreign enemies, but by inward maladies continually preying upon them, would then assume a new aspect. But tears and powerless wishes are all I can bestow.

Thus, while we continued on the plain, we obtained indeed useful lessons, but much pain was mingled with our pleasure. But we concluded more happily, with an excursion over that mighty range by which Cashmire is separated from the regions of the south. Peace seemed to revisit us, when, from the suffering abodes of man, we ascended amid the sublime forms of nature. At our

first approach, beauty still predominated ; green and glittering vales, and meandering streams, like those of paradise, lay reposing beneath the awful mountainous shade. We proceeded, and the alpine world received us into its bosom, and nothing appeared but images of the rudest grandeur—the vast mountain-mass ascending to the skies, with hills over hills, and shaggy woods hanging from its sides ; its summit crowned with crowds of snowy pinnacles. Here, the cleft rocks formed tremendous walls, whose height the eye could not measure, and strewed the ground with their scattered fragments : There, the lengthened cataract dashed from steep to steep, a thousand fantastic rocks diversifying its course. Hail ! awful, sacred scenes ! ever shall my heart feel grateful for the tranquillity you restored to it.

In the few inhabitants of these secluded regions, there is nothing to damp the

feelings which the scenery inspires. A virtuous simplicity, an open hospitality, even a humble plenty, is to be found almost every-where in the mountain cottages. We mounted to the highest pinnacle, whence a vast view opened over the Indian plains; then descended, not without regret, and returned to Cashmire.

ZINGANI *to* ALTUNO.

EVENTS of the most important nature hastened our return to the capital.—

Zamri had not been a forgetful or indolent friend. Possessing, by his rank and services, an access to the royal ear,

he had never ceased urging the claims of Corasmin, and representing the injustice that had been done to him. His enemies parried the attack as long as possible; but at length it was impossible to prevent the king from insisting, that a full inquiry should be instituted. This was an issue which they dreaded above all others; and, rather than expose themselves to it, they immediately changed their ground. They had discovered the entire innocence of Corasmin; they found themselves to have been wholly misinformed; they would not only restore him to his former situation, but give him a higher. His friends, who desired no more, had nothing left but to acquiesce. The appointment now chosen for him was one exercised in the capital, and immediately connected with the general administration. Whether this was selected by the ministers, as more honourable, or as keeping him more im-

mediately under their eye, I shall not pretend to say. But he himself, on learning this new destination, objected to it, as too high. "No," said he, "I know well there are details necessary to be known, which can only be acquired by passing through the inferior departments. I must be placed in the step beneath, and rise only as I become qualified for a higher." I did not quite enter into this reasoning. I represented, that even supposing him not perfectly qualified, the person who really would hold the situation might probably be less so: thus the public must gain by his acceptance. But he said, "Even allowing what your partial friendship suggests to be true, still I ought not, in violation of the general rule, to push myself into this situation. I ought not to aid in establishing a precedent, which in itself is pernicious." Those by whom he was appointed were careful not to urge him

too earnestly, and Zamri said, “ Well, my friend, no doubt the best officers rise from the ranks.”

Corasmin is thus placed in the midst of enemies : a situation sufficiently painful, and which might even deter others from venturing into it. But he, firm to his purpose, sees at least a limited share of good which it will afford him the means of performing ; and for this he braves every opposite consideration.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

I CONTINUE busily occupied with public duties; and though my situation is not without painful circumstances, I yet find

none absolutely to exclude the view with which I entered it. Personally, I experience nothing but what is agreeable. The society of my friends, the means of information, occasional incursions into a charming country, fill up, in the most desirable manner, my intervals of leisure.

My uncle and I are again on a friendly footing. I can guess the cause; yet the circumstance is gratifying to me. He introduced me first into public life; he has always even been personally friendly, so far as policy would permit. Although, therefore, I am never likely to give myself up to his direction, I am yet gratified by the renewal of amicable relations betwixt us.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

So then, my friend, you return again to that subject on which you formerly touched; again you are made to believe, that, amid the first tumults of office, I have fallen into the snares of love. You mistake; yet this your friendly inquiry gratifies me, since it testifies the warm interest which you take in all my personal concerns and feelings. Most willingly, since you permit, since you invite, will I make you my confidant in these, as well as in higher interests. Advice even, which in those concerns is generally supposed to be so ill listened to,

will not from you, I trust, be entirely thrown away.

But say, first, whence have you drawn your present surmise? who has told you that I sigh at the feet of Dalinda? Never were you more completely misinformed. I cannot even recollect any reasonable ground on which such a belief can rest. Accident, and common acquaintance, without my ever courting it, caused us frequently to meet;—then, indeed, the united charm of beauty, wit, and brilliant animation, excited for the moment a pleasure somewhat lively; but it never was one which struck deep, nor of which, when absent, I longed for the repetition. Had it been so, it were one from which I should consider myself bound, by the most imperious motives of public duty, for ever to interdict myself. No, my friend, you know her not, otherwise you never would wish her mine. Gay, thoughtless, extravagant; one who exists

only amid the flutter of public admiration; one, if I err not, who, in being the wife of a minister, would consider only that her levee would be crowded; that she would be at the source of favour, and would be supplied with the means of boundless expense: the mere creature, in short, of vanity. My friend, it is not a woman like this that must reign over the heart of Corasmin.

I will now own, that this is a subject on which I have thought, and with some anxiety. I feel wishes within me, pointing at such an union: I feel that a tender friend at home might be a mighty solace amid public care. But where shall I find her with whom I could dare to entrust my heart? I must consider this relation, not as it concerns myself alone, but as it may affect those whose welfare is made to depend upon me. How great, in this view, are the evils in which an otherwise promising connexion

might involve me ! Qualities which might render woman amiable in private life, would altogether unfit for the destiny to which I must associate her. A mere indolent good-nature, an instinctive kindness, an eagerness to serve those whom she liked, and was in the habit of seeing ; such a disposition, amiable in itself, precious to others, would to me be an eternal bar. How cruel, when surrounded by so many excitements to forget public and act only from private motives, to have an internal foe always to strive against ; to be forced, from one thus indissolubly united, to estrange my most intimate and fondly cherished ideas ; to be exposed by vain extravagance to the most unworthy temptations ! In what misery ; nay, for who can be fully assured of himself, in what guilt might I be involved ? A perpetual struggle must then be maintained between private affection and public duty ; and

though at this moment I hope and trust that the one would never come into competition, yet, could I rest assured that it would always be thus? I must guard my heart sevenfold against such charms. My situation is perilous. I cannot be insensible how many there are to whom I myself might be nothing, yet to whom the situation I offer were extremely desirable. I may become the prey of those who are most dexterous in deception. I trust, indeed, I have acquired some skill in discerning genuine feelings through the ostentatious veil thrown over them. I sometimes imagine myself for a moment to have found what I sought; but these first flattering appearances soon disappear, and my heart finds itself still alone.

Who, then, and what is she, after whom I so vainly sigh? She were one to whom, as to another self, I could communicate my most secret sentiments,

my hopes, my wishes for public happiness; who would listen with an ardour entirely congenial; who, by sharing, would raise them to a nobler height. I seek one (and such I trust there are), the love of whom might identify itself with the general love of human nature. —Such a passion, instead of tending to withdraw me from the path on which I have entered, would form a new barrier to secure me within it. It were a prop to lean on amid the storms of life; to support me under the burden when it threatened to become too heavy. Instead of sapping my determinations, it would support them, if for a moment they threatened to waver.—This, then, is the being whom I have painted to myself, and after whom my heart longs. True it is, I have not yet found any such; but I still seek, still hope.

From the Same to the Same.

YOUR answer, with the opinion you express of the sentiments contained in my last letter, are entirely agreeable to me. I have now something to communicate which I then dreamt not of. I had known Maled, an old and respectable nobleman, who has lived in a retired manner, at a small distance from the capital. I had not visited him, however, till two days ago, when I called on occasion of some business which I had to arrange. While it was transacting, a young lady, whom I had understood to be his daughter, sat at the other end of the room. Her face was turned

from us, and she did not change her posture; but there was in her air, her attitude, something which caused to me, I knew not why, an extraordinary emotion. I waited with impatience to see more. When our conversation ended, her father introduced me to her. She turned: I was electrified! Certainly I had often seen beauty more brilliant and imposing, but never such high and exquisite thought, so tempered, so blended; never features so rich with soul. That moment seemed to open to me a new world. She addressed me politely and gracefully; while I, faltering and confused, with difficulty returned an answer. Maled asked me to remain, and I easily suffered myself to be persuaded. During this visit my whole soul was employed in watching every word, every look, every attitude; in studying the effect produced by the various sentiments which arose in the course of con-

versation : I listened with trembling eagerness to every accent. She maintained a mild and dignified reserve, which a timidity that I could not overcome, prevented me from making any efforts to dispel. Insensibly, however, I led to the subjects on which I wished to ascertain if she had any kindred feelings. Amid a modest silence then, while we spoke of the improvement of Cashmire, of the means of contributing to its happiness, of delivering it from oppression,—her eloquent eyes, when I caught their glance, seemed full of the deep interest which the subject inspired. The words which she uttered were few, but they seemed to rise from the deepest seat of feeling ; and when I met her eyes, a sacred fire glowed in them. Every thing seemed to offer a promise that this was she I had long sighed after. I could have remained for ever : but it was at length necessary to depart. My whole

soul was now full of this one object. Here was indeed something interesting above all that I had yet seen of woman-kind ; something that seemed a fulfilment of my vain and ceaseless wishes. Yet what I have as yet seen is little, too little by far, on which to rest any assurance. Shall I be caught, like a boy, at the first glance ? Shall a few sweet tones entrap me ? Fear not, I will deeply consider ; I feel all the importance of this step. I must thoroughly know that she is what my fancy paints ; that the transcendent interest thus awakened has an adequate object ; I must not be deceived here. I will examine till there shall not be a doubt remaining. My dread is too awful of being united to any, but one who could share my most secret thoughts.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

WHAT I have seen and heard of Sel-
mida since I last wrote, has all tended
to confirm my first impression. Still,
indeed, the same mild and dignified re-
serve; yet through it there still tran-
spires the same glowing interest in
every object connected with public vir-
tue and happiness. Nor is this, if I can
at all judge, inspired, as is common in
the world, by the mere vanity of talking
on subjects of importance. It comes
apparently deep from the heart. She
seems even desirous not to mingle in our
conversation, when it touches upon such
subjects; but she listens, till, unknow-

ingly, unconsciously, her eyes brighten, and kindred sentiments spontaneously burst forth. I cannot believe this to be feigned: Never did I observe, in the manner of any one, less of laboured elevation. I have seen her with the most intimate of her youthful companions: then, unless inspired by some strong sentiment, her gaiety was almost too careless, too infantine; save that when any higher object was presented, her soul ascended spontaneously as to its native region. Even then, when fancy, feeling, gaiety, flowed unchecked, there still remained a high controlling power to check every exuberance; something still, which seemed to ally her to higher natures.

You ask, perhaps, what interest I conceive myself to possess in the mind of this amiable person? I fluctuate still vaguely amid hopes and fears. Her manner continues somewhat distant and

almost cold ; yet have I seen no cause to apprehend that this deportment arises from bad opinion or dislike. There are even some approaches towards friendship. Our souls sometimes closely meet ; and there may be hope, that, as they touch at more points, more chords will strike in unison. But, unfixed as I still am, uncertain if she be one with whom I could ever dare to seek an union, the time is not yet come for making any attempts to dispel the uncertainty.—Meantime, I am relieved from the dread which I at first felt, of my ardour in its pursuit being weakened by this rival sentiment. Quite opposite is the effect. I feel it give me a new impulse in the cause of mankind. The hope and interest thus excited, diffuse an additional energy through all my exertions ; and if she be such as I fondly hope, the prospect of her approbation will afford a new motive to animate them.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

You will no doubt have heard, (never till now could I take up my pen,) that my excellent, my revered benefactor; that Zamri is no more. An illness, to which he at first paid little attention, proved soon a fever of a very dangerous nature. Notwithstanding every aid which could be afforded, the disorder continued to gain ground. Sometimes a short interval of ease occurred, and flattered us for a moment with hopes of recovery: But soon the prospect darkened, and every symptom assumed a more fatal aspect. At length the physicians announced, that we had nothing to hope.

I pass over the last scene, the anguish of which is still fresh ; but I had the satisfaction of being present, and receiving new testimonies of unaltered affection. Even now, I have attended to pay the last duties ; have seen him consigned to the grave, and the earth covering him : All my hopes seemed buried in the same tomb.

I am happy to say, that the young Monarch shewed a just concern at the prospect of losing so valuable a servant. He caused him to be attended by his own physicians, and visited him repeatedly in person. One day, in particular, he had a long and private conference with him, the subject of which I have not learned.

I see myself thus deprived of the man to whom I am indebted for all my present fortunes ; and a deep shade is thrown over my prospects. But at present I feel only for my cruel separation,

and for the State, which has experienced in him an irreparable loss. Doubtless, he is gone to act a distinguished part in some higher scene of existence. But the world here can ill sustain the absence of one, who has left so few equals behind him.

From the Same to the Same.

I MUST leave this office. I can no longer hope for usefulness in acting among those with whom I am associated. Not that I can allege any symptoms of a wish for my removal. On the contrary, I receive pressing invitations to remain, and, in whatever concerns my

own private advantage, offers are made even beyond my wishes. But no longer supported, I do not find that I can do any thing for my country : any thing to repress abuses ; any thing to relieve the people. I must act merely as an instrument, and must not interfere with the general system : remonstrance is not listened to. Yet are there measures on the eve of execution, in which I could never even appear to acquiesce. The utmost exertion which I can now make, could have no effect but that of strengthening a system, to which I am wholly adverse. Therefore I have nothing left but to retire, and withdraw again into my native shades ; and if this resolution is opposed by most of those calling themselves my friends, I enjoy the full approbation of the few who truly merit that title.

ZINGANI *to* ALTUNO.

You already know, that Corasmin is again about to retire. This is a voluntary determination, dictated by the highest sense of public duty. We are all fully convinced, that, by remaining, he injured the cause to which he had devoted himself. His associates in office were most anxious that he should continue. They had need of him : no one else understood so well, or could execute with such dexterity, the functions of his department. But they calculated still more on the public estimation in which he was held : They wished his apparent sanction ; they hoped to throw him up

as a shield against the odium which they were incurring. He ought not, therefore, and means not to remain. But they have also, if I am not much misinformed, some reason to apprehend, that his departure will not increase their favour with the young Monarch.

CABULI *to* ALTUNO.

THIS Corasmin is perfectly unaccountable: his conduct sets all calculation at defiance. Here he is, in a situation the most desirable; far better, I may truly say, than any one could have expected, that had seen the manner in which he conducted himself. Excellent

prospects of rising too; and no one asking any thing of him, but merely to remain quietly where he is. All this he chuses at once to throw up. It is long since he ceased to pay the smallest attention to any advice of mine; therefore it is vain for me to think of giving it. All that I could wish is, to hear something like a rational cause assigned for his conduct. But this no one has yet been able to give me. Do you think you could have any influence in turning him from this frenzy; for surely you could not now refuse to exert it? I apply to you, as a last resource; for every thing that can be done here has been tried, and to no purpose.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

I STILL remain. I will even remain for a short time longer; and I may not say, even to you, the reason why. You are at liberty, then, to suppose, that I begin to cling to the sweets of office; begin to think it too much to exchange power and profit for a chimerical sense of right. You are at liberty to think thus, and I am not at liberty to refute you.

From the Same to the Same.

I CAN now relate to you, without reserve, all that has passed during the late eventful fortnight. Agreeably to my last letter, I had announced my intention of retiring; and having found nothing satisfactory in the motives by which I was urged to remain, was occupied in making the necessary preparations. While thus busied, however, I was surprised by receiving a message, which enjoined me to repair immediately to the palace. I obeyed, and was shown through a suite of apartments to a cabinet in the interior. Here I waited for some time; but judge of my surprise, when, the door

being thrown open, who should enter but the Monarch himself! I started up: On finding myself thus unexpectedly in so new a situation, my composure, I confess, for a moment forsook me. He came in, however, and addressed me in so courteous a manner, as soon relieved my embarrassment, and restored an entire self-possession. He sat down, and at his desire I did so also. Zamri was the first subject of our conversation, and here his Majesty expressed himself in a manner most gratifying, and which led me to form the most favourable presages. He then changed the subject, and said, "But they tell me you are about to leave my service: Is it really so?" "Sire, it is with deep regret I say, that you have been rightly informed." "Corasmin, I am much surprised at this resolution. No doubt you were once wronged; that was without my knowledge; but every thing possible has been done to repair it: Of

what do you now complain?" "Sire, I may truly say, that, so far as personally concerns myself, I have every reason to be satisfied. I may add, that I am not conscious of failing in any sentiment which I owe to your Majesty, as my sovereign and benefactor, yet the necessity which forces me to retire is not less urgent." "But whence does it arise? No motive can I discover, except indifference to my service. I am surely entitled at least to a full explanation." I hesitated not then to make a frank exposition of all my motives, and what the measures were which I could not contemplate with indifference, nor ever concur in. "Well," said he, "I certainly felt at first very much as you do: These are things to which I was much averse; but all my ministers agreed, that they were quite necessary. I know not how they could have been avoided. However, let me hear what you have to say."

A discussion of some length now followed. I saw at once the nature of Vizignan,—open, noble, generous, susceptible of powerful and rapid impressions, naturally good, and incapable of being thoroughly depraved. But with these amiable dispositions was combined a facility, amiable in itself, and susceptible of all the charms of beneficence; yet which exposed him too readily to be misled and deceived. A flattering crowd had taught him to refer every measure, every event, to his own power and importance, never to the public good:—scarcely any other idea had been allowed to approach his mind. Thus, when we were discussing the tendency of various measures, I found him obstinately viewing them in this light only, and entrenching himself in ground where he could not be touched. It was in vain that I reasoned; this met me at every turn. I saw it necessary, therefore, and I re-

solved, to go deeper, and fully to explain what I really judged that a King ought to be : and there was in him still something which assured me, that I might do so, without fear of offending. I sought to prove, that the first, sole aim of a Monarch should be, to diffuse happiness among that people over whose destinies he presided ; that here was all his greatness and happiness ; it was for this that heaven had made him a King. I endeavoured to shew, how unrivalled a source of felicity partial fate had thus opened to him. He could redress the wrongs of thousands ; could cover deserts with the glow of cultivation ; could create a vast mass of existence, which, but for him, would never have existed. I placed before him the picture of a kingdom, which should be indebted to him for order, for security, for a thousand blessings which it was in his power to confer : how superior to every other must be the

happiness derived from such a spectacle ! The King listened with fixed attention, and evidently shared the sentiments which had animated me in making this delineation. I saw his eyes glow with sacred enthusiasm ; springs had been touched, which, when awakened, beat powerfully within him : hopes opened to me, at that moment, for Cashmire and for the world. But soon a cloud passed over his countenance. “ Corasmin, these are not new ideas to me : they are such as have often sprung up in my mind : I should be delighted to indulge them ! But no minister has ever yet held this language : on the contrary, whenever I started such ideas, I was warned not to think of putting them in practice : they were treated as amiable weaknesses, against which I must guard. Yet, certainly, if the facts you have stated prove true,—I will consider,—I will inquire ; the subject is serious : Meantime, let me

ask you to remain ; and not to name, even to your most intimate friends, what has now passed."

After this I could not but remain : yet was I inclined to believe, that the impression would be soon obliterated ; that nothing more would pass ; and that the offer of resignation would be again to be made. I was mistaken : Eight days indeed elapsed, but a second message then summoned me to the palace. I again found myself in his Majesty's presence. He entered, in an attitude deeply thoughtful, saluted me graciously, and then said : " Corasmin, I have been greatly occupied by the subject of our last conversation. I have inquired into the facts : Every thing you told me was true : My people, indeed, are greatly wronged. I feel much disposed to concur with you ; but first you must give me some explanations. I must not resign what has been transmitted to me

by my ancestors : I must maintain my prerogative. You cannot, surely, expect me to become the slave of my subjects ? You must show me clearly, that my authority will not suffer ; that no mischief will ensue." It was no difficult task to prove, how intimate was the union between the interests of a sovereign and those of his people ; it was in their numbers, their wealth, their activity, that his real greatness consisted. " Sire," said I, " what injury can ensue from ensuring to all their equal rights ? from stopping the career of oppression ? You have only to give free scope to those capacities of improvement which are lodged deep within them : this is enough to make you the greatest of monarchs." Vizignan felt the force of my observations, yet still was not quite satisfied. He even put a somewhat delicate question : He asked, whether I was actuated solely by the consideration of public

good, not by any personal regard to himself? I could with truth profess profound attachment and respect for his Majesty ; and could add, that, considering the two motives as inseparably connected, I saw no inconsistency in cherishing both with equal zeal. He appeared satisfied. We conversed long upon this subject ; and the King said in conclusion, “ You must still give me some days longer to reflect : you shall then hear my final resolution.”

I departed ; but a very few days now elapsed till I was a third time sent for. I found the King in a state of strong emotion, agitated, yet resolved, and with the air of one who has finally fixed a grand determination. “ Corasmin,” said he, “ after long reflection, after full inquiry, I have become entirely your convert. I feel that what you described is indeed what a king should be. I find congenial feelings within me : My heart

glows with the hope of one day being all you painted. But, to be so, I must have you to support me. You must be my aid, my adviser, my *minister*! Nay, gaze not in wonder; I have well weighed what I say." "Sire," said I, "amazed I certainly am: I dare not take such a weight upon myself. Consider my youth, consider the little I have seen of public life." "Corasmin," replied he, "I have not decided rashly. You are not new to public affairs: I certainly know that you have studied them with long and unwearied attention. I have heard your praise from every one whose opinion I judge to be most estimable. Zamri recommended you to me with his latest breath. In short, of all whom I have met, you only have avowed the principles which are now to guide me. I have often thought thus, but never found any one to sympathize with me. My people must be made happy, if to make them so be with-

in my power. I wish it, but scarcely know how, if you guide not my yet uncertain steps. You abandon me ; you abandon Cashmire.”—“ Sire, grant me at least a few days to consider.”—“ Well, I grant it ; but do not therefore suppose, that you will prevail with me to accept of any excuse.”

Thus it rests with me alone, whether I am to be placed on the highest pinnacle to which ambition could soar. I view it with desire, with burning ambition : I confess I do. But may not this lustre which surrounds it, lead my thoughts astray ? I tremble in coming under a weight so awful : hopes, wishes, regrets ; all that I had thought and planned for this people crowd into my mind, but still disarranged, and fill me with alarm. An error here, even involuntary, could scarcely be distinguished from a crime. Can I even trust, that these glowing passions will never mislead me ?

and if I fall, into what an abyss do I sink ! Now, Oh, my friend ! I conjure you by all that is most sacred in the ties which bind you to your country, and render its prosperity your first object on earth ; strip yourself of every partiality ; view me not as your friend, your pupil ; view me only as the instrument of her welfare :—Will zeal, however ardent, alone avail ? Think deeply, I entreat you ; give me a full and frank opinion. Till I receive it, I will form no resolution.

ALTUNO to CORASMIN.

MY dearest young Friend,—I cannot hesitate a moment what to advise. Far,

indeed, were it from me to wish, that even my most favourite pupil should hold such a place, when a worthier would have filled it, when Cashmire would have suffered. But form not to yourself ideas of imaginary perfection; see only what the men are who could be brought into competition with you. No, my Corasmin, none, like you, have sought out all the sources of national prosperity; none have so devoted themselves to it. It is, indeed,—let me not deceive you,—it is an awful trust which is now to be imposed upon you. Toils that never cease, dangers always environing, sacrifices almost more than human, must be the portion of him upon whom it rests. But still it is the noblest trust which heaven can bestow on man: it is a trust which you can, and therefore must fulfil.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

It is all over : I have accepted. The King has, with great promptitude and decision, carried the change into effect. Those formerly at the head of affairs have already received their dismissal ; and I have been called upon to suggest the plan of a new administration.

Behold me, then, first minister, and, next to the Sovereign, the prime mover in the destinies of this great people. Exalted indeed is the office ! To diffuse benefits over so vast an extent ; to be the source from which prosperity flows through myriads of human beings ; to co-operate, as it were, with the Divinity

himself, in spreading order and happiness throughout nature !—But if these privileges be high, how weighty also are the obligations which they impose ! What anxiety, that every step may not only be advantageous, but may produce the utmost possible good ! What mighty and unforeseen consequences may arise from measures seemingly trivial ; and, should these be fatal, what bitter regrets must follow ! How difficult to strike the due medium between tyranny and weakness ; to cherish the national privileges, without leaving an opening for licentiousness and disorder ; to rectify abuses, without injuring the valuable institutions on which they are grafted ! What dangers surround me on every side ! Oh, thou ! my Supreme Benefactor, who, through this variety of fortune, hast raised me to so wondrous a height, vouchsafe thine aid ; support and guide my trembling footsteps ; that I may be enabled, in

some faint and humble degree, to become an instrument in forwarding thy great designs of universal good!—You too, my friend, I doubt not, join your wishes and prayers for a successful progress in this great career. But could you not do more? How precious would be your aid, your presence! I know the force of those ties which bind you to the retreat in which you pass the evening of your days: I request not a personal kindness; I owe you too much already to think of asking more. But is there not a duty which summons you? You will think well, I am confident, upon this subject.

ALTUNO *to* CORASMIN.

YOUR last letter fulfilled my utmost wish. The dim visions of hope are realized; your fortune is twined with the fortunes of mankind: Happy nations will have you for their ruler. Happy is it for me that mankind should be blessed! thrice happy, that you should be their benefactor! But, Oh, Corasmin! never forget the snares that will beset you in this elevation, the many voices of flattery that will assail you. Study man as he is; strip off every disguise; carefully compare actions with words; think how all are interested in deceiving you. Yet I

trust, that the sacred flame will not soon decay. But guard also against the opposite extreme: keep moderation even in your public zeal; change not all too quickly; men may not be such as we wish, yet still, skilfully handled, they may be useful instruments.

You know me, I suppose, enough to believe, that neither for you, nor for my country, would I be sparing of any effort which it were in my power to make. But the time is past when I could appear with dignity on the theatre of public life. Long habit has inured me to this solitude; infirmity now chains me to it. You have heard, and eagerly imbibed, all that I could tell of the sources of human happiness, the barriers of public virtue. You have made it entirely your own. You can execute it with all the glowing energies of the prime of your age: the wrecks of mine would aid you little. Occasional advice, which is

all that I could now give, you might receive equally from this retirement. Ask me not then to leave it, and plunge into a world, which is now strange and unsuited to me.

FAZIL to ALTUNO.

CORASMIN himself cannot now write ; he is too deeply occupied in forming those preliminary arrangements on which future success and usefulness must mainly depend. He again deposes me then to supply his place. He knows well how pleasing is the office, at a moment so animating and so full of hope for us and for our country. It is most gratifying

to find the general union of sentiment in his favour. Those driven from office, indeed, are loud in their impotent murmurs. But all whose judgment, or whose aid is truly to be valued, sanction the choice made by the Sovereign. They admit, that Cashmire contains many statesmen most able and capable of rendering the greatest services; but they still conceive that he ought to be the first. His decision and activity profoundly tempered with wisdom; his enlightened and generous ardour; those ties by which he holds bound to him all that is best and most enlightened among our rising statesmen;—these point him out as the man that ought to take the lead, to distribute their parts to the different actors, to superintend the whole.

Corasmin, I believe, will write you at the first moment of leisure.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

I EAGERLY embrace this momentary interval, to give you an account of all that I have been now doing. It has afforded deep and anxious occupation. It was of the first importance to avoid, in this preliminary step, errors which could not, without extreme difficulty, be afterwards remedied. Not only must there be able men to fill every department; they must be men possessing, from nature or habit, the peculiar talents suited to each. Mere general ability, without such appropriate qualifications, might, even in its practical result, be worse than mediocrity.

I certainly have much ground for hope in the character of those whom I can now call around me : men, not able merely, but connected by the strictest congeniality of views and sentiments ; bound together by the strongest ties of public and private union. Here my situation is indeed fortunate. I shall have the happiness of bringing forward, to public usefulness, wisdom and powers which otherwise might never have been known, and might have been lost to the world.

Zingani is one of those on whose judgment and profound reflection I rested my main dependence. Yet is he unwilling to involve himself in the bustle and tumult of office. His disposition, all his habits, dispose him rather for private life. Not that he can be accused of any indifference to the public welfare ; no one feels a more ardent passion to promote it ; but he prefers a more retired and

private sphere. He urges even, and not perhaps without some reason, that his public usefulness will be greater, thus standing behind the scene, than if he occupied a more prominent station. He, above all others, is qualified for investigating those grand principles by which public councils ought to be guided. He possesses caution and comprehension, to sound those depths, which I should scarcely have leisure to look into. Yet I should even dread, were he himself employed to carry them into execution, that he might apply them too absolutely, and with too little attention to existing circumstances. He anticipates, throughout, so full a stream of success; he calculates so little on the resistance which this rugged world will oppose to him, that it would be difficult always to retain him within the limits of prudence. At the same time, he wants the firmness and decision which could alone secure suc-

cess to his plans. His province is to enlighten those who act, rather than to act himself. I wish to keep him constantly near me, to be consulted upon all occasions; to investigate all complicated and difficult questions; to furnish, in short, the general principles, while others undertake the task of modifying and applying them.

Actemad is a character as opposite as can possibly exist, consistently with common views and principles. A laborious and minute inspection of things as they really exist, immoveable integrity, unwearied perseverance, all point him out as formed to act, not to speculate; as an admirable instrument, but not one from whom any extensive plans can originate. The management of the finances, a most important department, and which urgently claims our attention, appeared to be that for which his qualifications were peculiarly suited. His severe integrity,

his industry and economy, seemed to constitute him the person that ought to fill a situation so arduous. Even the repulsive part of his character, though it may render him less amiable in society, is no disadvantage in a post beset with such numerous and unreasonable demands. He can perform without suffering the severe and stern duties of that office; can oppose an iron front against the avidity of innumerable claimants: he does public good without the reward of gratitude. The grace may be wanting with which it were desirable to temper a refusal; but he encounters with cheerfulness the odium of so painful an office. Much, then, do we certainly owe to him; and if there be any thing extreme, or too rigorous in his economy, it can be easily mitigated.

As for Alvanda, he is one whom I should in vain attempt to fix down to any routine of occupation: little use, I

believe, could thus be derived from him. His lively and roving disposition must be indulged. He must be employed, as emergencies arise, which require an impetuous temporary effort, rather than continued application. The brisk and sweeping activity with which he applies himself to every new object, enables him to carry before him obstacles, which would have resisted more measured exertions. Foreign affairs and negotiation form the departments in which I look to him for peculiar aid. His alertness, his quickness of penetration, and popular address, render him one of the very best persons to whom the conduct of such concerns can be entrusted.

Such are my prime co-adjutors ; the men in whom my first confidence must be placed. But I have not forgotten the warnings which you gave me against too violent and sudden a change. Experience every day more fully shews me

their force. It has, in general, been my wish to retain those who have been employed in the subordinate departments, and have acquired a complete knowledge of the routine of business there carried on. It is true, they have often contracted at the same time an attachment to long established abuses ; and they may thus render these more difficult to be eradicated. But the obstacles thus raised cannot be insurmountable : when we command, they must obey. Nay, it is well that we have men of experience to give warning of the dangers into which a too ardent zeal might precipitate us. It is well that they should oppose a power of resistance against the too extreme rapidity of our course.

Thus all the preliminaries are arranged, and the time come for beginning to act. Trembling I enter on those awful functions ! What a weight of responsibility now rests upon me ! I have only to give

the touch, and a thousand springs are at work;—every movement influences the fate of thousands. Well may I shudder to think, that the happiness of so many must rest upon me. Plans may be meditated with all the depth which zeal can inspire; yet to erring mortals what security is there that the end will be accomplished? These issues rest indeed with that Power to whom I act in awful subordination. Yet must I not repose in indolent security: It were far from enough for me that I were innocent, if Cashmire were not made happy. But the time for looking back is now past; every thought, every effort, must be devoted to the high functions which I am called upon to fulfil. The happiness of this great people, like a fairy landscape glowing in the distance, fills my imagination, animates and impels every effort, chases every feeling of languor and fatigue.

Meantime, I have not merely to consider what is best to be done, I must also conciliate to it him under whose authority I act. Every honourable means must ever be employed, of securing his general favour and approbation. We must withdraw from his eye whatever is rough or forbidding in the exercise of public beneficence. It is natural for him to expect, that his rank should bring him enjoyment rather than toil. He has never learned hardihood in the school of adversity. We must smooth for him the rugged task of reigning: Painful details, so far as may be, must be transacted in silence. From the rose of public felicity every thorn must, for him, be extracted.

I shall soon have occasion to write you again; for there are urgent and important objects which call for attention; great evils, which can be prevented only by immediate exertion.

ZINGANI *to* CORASMIN.

YOU know how much I have approved all the arrangements hitherto made; but there is one which appears to me so critical, that I cannot even wait my return to the capital, to give you my opinion of it. Muscati is to be continued in the high situation he has so long held, and in which he has lent himself to all the measures and all the interests of successive administrations. Have you well weighed the nature of this man, and the consequence of retaining in such numbers these adherents to all the former abuses? You may rest assured, this is a

man into whose head you will never be able to drive any better ideas. He has not the slightest conception of them: I have tried and fully satisfied myself. You may depend upon his opposing a weight of resistance to every improvement which you may wish to introduce. It were really better, in my opinion, to purify the fountain entirely; to have none associated with us on whom we could not place equal dependence as on one of ourselves.

CORASMIN *to* ZINGANI.

I AM much indebted to you for communicating your advice so frankly on a subject of such high importance. You

have led me to consider it still more seriously than before. But I feel completely satisfied, that the use of this man to us will be very great; far more than sufficient to counterbalance the evils, though real, which you anticipate. Consider how much information he can furnish, which we could not dispense with, yet should find it difficult to obtain elsewhere. He is an instrument ready made; such as could not be soon or easily supplied. He possesses all that minute application and mechanical dexterity which long practice alone can teach. There are inconveniences, indeed, attached to the use of such instruments: But when can we hope to escape these? We must take useful qualities, mixed and compounded as they are by nature: we must not search too curiously after a hopeless perfection: We must employ Muscati.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

THE period since my last has been interesting. You already know the cause of my late determination to retire from office. An impost had been laid upon the agriculturists, the most useful of classes; in its nature the most oppressive and undistinguishing, and enforced with unrelenting rigour. Thousands were undone:—rather than pay, it had been easier to abandon every thing; their little all was selling to discharge it. Nothing could be so urgent as this: Here was a certain good which could be performed immediately; and if delayed, it would then be too late. The moment that

Vizignan heard, and had sensible proofs of this injustice, he was all on fire to repair it. "Fly," cried he, "instantly fly; save them; save at least all that can be saved. All must be restored which was so cruelly wrung from them: they must return to their deserted homes." I did not, as you may suppose, check such dispositions. Measures were instantly taken to ascertain what each had suffered, and, as far as could be done, to repair the calamity. The task was laborious; but all applied to it; every other object was for the moment suspended. A stop was immediately put to the further operation of the measure; an estimate was then formed of what each had suffered; and, to the utmost of our power, all was restored. The compensations prepared were distributed after a minute examination of the claims of each. Vizignan himself examined, and decided a number of cases on which doubts were

raised; and every decision bore testimony to the overflowing benevolence with which he was animated. Thus was restored to the labourer the hard-earned morsel unjustly torn from him. I wished to communicate to Vizignan a sensible impression of the good he had done. One morning then, as he rode out from the palace, he saw the great square, through which he was to pass, covered with a crowd of persons unknown to him. He turned to me: "Pray, who are these?" "Sire, they are peasants whom you restore to their fields; allow them to thank you." The eyes of Vizignan glowed; every word, every gesture bore testimony to the deep emotions with which he was penetrated. He approached the most venerable and interesting of the group; he inquired into their sufferings, their losses: there was not one who did not depart fully convinced of his genuine interest in their welfare. They

were heard exclaiming, as they went,
“ Now we have indeed a King that loves
us !”

From the Same to the Same.

I COMMUNICATED to you in my last the pleasing result of our first operations. Another task immediately presented itself. I knew that several persons were secretly confined, on pretences which appeared extremely slight. I immediately caused an inquiry to be instituted into the condition of these receptacles. It proved, that there hundreds were immured, persons in general of merit and distinction, who were languishing with-

out trial or inquiry. Here had been indiscriminately thrown every one, who from the slightest causes had become obnoxious to those in power. I instantly resolved, that my first work should be to explore the secrets of that prison-house. I laid before his Majesty the discoveries I had made. He said, "I am shocked at the information you give me, and still more shocked when I consider, that all has been done under my administration, and by my express authority. The truth is, the orders were brought to me, and signed as a matter of course, without my sufficiently attending to the consequences : Never did I suspect that I could thus be deceived. However, we can now do no more than provide that such abuses shall no longer exist. I wish that the prison doors be thrown open, and the whole immediately set free." "I am charmed with your Majesty's proposal. Let me only suggest,

as there are some against whom serious charges have really been advanced, whether it might not be proper to reserve these for trial, while the rest are dismissed?" "Well, this proposal is doubtless reasonable; but at least let there be no delay in liberating the innocent. Even those, whose alleged offences are not extremely heavy, appear to me to have already made a sufficient atonement. Let us restore the tenants of these abodes to light, to life, and the world." "Your Majesty has my most cordial assent. I even propose, that to-morrow shall be the day fixed. Nay, possibly your Majesty might have no objection to be present, and might find it as agreeable an amusement as a public place in the evening." "I am delighted with your idea: I shall certainly cause my equipage to be ready at the hour appointed." A rumour of what was intended had gone abroad, and spread through the city. Early in

the morning, the place was beset by the relations and friends of those who were within. An immense crowd from all quarters flocked to the same spot, attracted by curiosity or sympathy. At length the expected moment arrived. A way being opened through the multitude, the royal equipage passed, and stationed itself opposite to the door of the prison. The work of deliverance was now begun. From without, we could hear the sound of chains unloosing, and cries of joy echoing through the desolate apartments. The gate was then thrown open, and those whom it had confined issued forth to new existence and life, to behold again the light of day, and to all the joys of action and society. Then was seen the meeting and warm embraces of parents and children, of sisters and brothers, of wives and husbands, and the tears of joy shed at this happy, almost unhopcd for reunion. Nor was the plea-

sure confined to them, but was communicated to every spectator. Shouts of applause and rapture ascended from the whole of the surrounding circle. Vizignan exclaimed, "Corasmin, now indeed you have taught me what it is to be a King!"

From the Same to the Same.

ALL, I think, has now been done which it was possible to do at once. A higher and more arduous task follows. Our views must take a wider range: They must extend over the future; must embrace those objects which affect the permanent welfare of Cashmire. The

deepest consideration is here required ; for though it is evident that something must be done, yet, as we advance, dangers beset us at every step. All the powers of wisdom and foresight which our circle can furnish, must now be called forth, in order to afford the hope of treading with safety. But the difficulty is increased, not merely in regard to the discovery of what is to be done, but also in obtaining the same cordial concurrence on the part of the Monarch. Nothing can now be presented to the senses ; all is distant, and exists only in hope. Often even present and sensible evil must be encountered, in order to reach this ultimate good. It must be my task to disperse the mist which now hides it from his eye ; to place before him the beauties of that structure, of which he can now only be laying the foundation.

I cannot have a doubt as to what must be the first object of our care. Justice must reign; property and life must be secured to all. This is the grand basis on which must rest that prosperity, which it is our ambition to create; without it, all were in vain. We must lift the drooping arm of industry; must secure to the labourer the fruits of his toil; must cause that the mightiest may not commit wrong, nor the meanest endure it. Far otherwise is it now. Violence reigns every-where; every-where the hard-earned morsel is snatched from the hand of industry; the husbandman who should labour, would labour only for his oppressor. "Sire," said I, "you do not reign, while your subjects groan under this tyranny; while you secure them not against the hand of power which wrings from them the morsel so hardly earned. Would you reign over a great, prosperous, and happy people? you must

then have independent and upright tribunals to secure all in their just rights. The sword of justice must flame against those who riot on public calamity. You must bring the mighty delinquent to justice: no favour, no power, must screen him." This was a task little congenial to the easy good nature of the Monarch. He said, "No doubt, my subjects must not be oppressed; that I will never permit: but are you sure as to the grounds of what you have stated? I cannot recollect any complaint that has reached me. If the people are injured, why do they not state their grievances? No doubt they are excessively indolent: this I have often been grieved to remark. But I am told that it is their nature to be so; that nothing will ever cure them." "Sire," said I, "you will never hear a word of complaint. These things are done under your order, by your authority, as it were, by yourself. Your people enjoy not the

just fruits of their industry; therefore it is that these fields lie waste." After much discussion and explanation, the King at length withdrew his objections; yet still he did not appear to enter into our views with all the ardour which I wished to inspire. I judged it requisite that some sensible impression should be made. We were making an excursion to a part of the country at some distance, where I believed myself not to be personally known. This district was of exuberant fertility, possessed a ready market for its productions, had, in short, every requisite for becoming great and prosperous. Its present aspect was altogether the reverse:—The cultivators were seen standing listless, with hands folded; and the few who laboured at all, performed it as an object in which they had scarcely any concern. The King exclaimed, "Now own that I was rightly informed. See how indolent these men

are; nothing can rouse them!" "Sire," said I, "observe a group standing at a little distance; allow me to step forward and converse with them, while you may listen unobserved." "Friends," said I, "can you find nothing better than to stand here thus idle? look at these fields; duly cultivated, they might produce three times what they now do." "And do you suppose that if they did so we should be richer?" "Certainly." "Oh! you know better. All the advantage we should gain would be, that of being marked out as objects for exaction. If, indeed, the fruits of our labour were our own, there were a mighty difference; but no! no! However, on these subjects the less that is said the better." "But, my friends, tell me, have you fairly made the trial? may you not be proceeding on a false presumption?" "Oh! do you not know the instance of ———; what pains he bestowed on his little inheritance? he

made it such as nothing in the neighbourhood could equal ; for this very reason he lost it.” “ Explain to me, I beseech you, how this could happen.” They were at first reserved, but, probably perceiving no appearance of any treacherous design, at length unfolded, indeed, a striking scene of oppression. “ The same, sir, we know, would be our lot, did our situation appear to afford the temptation : judge then what motive we have to labour.”

I had now obtained all I wished, and, after putting a few further questions to ascertain the facts, I rejoined the Monarch. I found him in a state of violent agitation. “ Heavens !” exclaimed he, “ is it possible, that in my kingdom, by my officers, under colour of my orders, such things are done ? Yes, Corasmin, let the oppressor be instantly brought to justice ; you have my full sanction.” “ He certainly ought, and must ; but

consider, Sire, this sufferer is but the representative of thousands who groan under the same yoke. Let not, then, the generous sympathy of your Majesty spend itself within such narrow limits. Our main consideration is not, that such things should be done, but that it should be possible to do them." "Yes, this shall not be done where I reign: Never will I consider myself as King over Cash-mire, till every one of my subjects shall reap entire the fruits of his industry; till the meanest is secure from the oppression of the highest. I will do it; only tell me how." Thus we have Vizignan wholly with us; and nothing remains but to consider, with deep deliberation, what are the best means of fulfilling his intentions.

CORASMIN *to* ZINGANI.

MY dear Friend,—There never was a moment when we were so deeply called upon to concentrate all the wisdom which the councils of Cashmire can afford. The steps now to be taken must be the basis of all our future operations. Justice is the foundation on which our rule must rest. A great change must be made: there is no palliating the disease under which this country now labours. But we must not move one step till every thing connected with the present condition of that department has been fully investigated. Actemad has taken the lead in this inquiry, and to him I can

trust for suffering nothing to pass unobserved. But do you meditate (more deeply, I am confident, than if your own highest interests were the object) how the system may best be moulded, how its integrity may be secured, its decisions enforced. Collect all the wisdom of ages. When some change is necessary, and is to be made, now is the time when nothing ought to be overlooked; when, if possible, not a single error should be suffered to escape.

CORASMIN *to* ACTEMAD.

MY dear Friend,—What an abyss have you opened! Great as my fears had been, they never rose to this height.

Certainly these things must not again be. Yet your plan of punishment is too severe, too unrelenting. I see many claims for individual mercy. Institutions ill framed and ill supported, presented temptations almost irresistible to human frailty; example, even long precedent, could be urgent in palliation. Nay, too often there were commands from a higher quarter, obedience to which it would little become us to treat as a crime. Therefore, Actemad, let us aim rather to prevent the possibility of such deeds ever recurring, than to avenge them done. It were not well to open with a ministry of blood. Let us guard the future with awful sanctions, but let us look with a lenient eye upon the past.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

OUR arrangements are completed. I ardently hope that impartial inexorable justice is now secure to this people, as far as human institutions can secure it. Vizignan was most zealous that this should be done ; yet was there some difficulty, when measures were proposed for securing the decisions from the arbitrary interference of the Crown. “ Nay, Corasmin, there I have always conceived myself to have a right to dictate : All my ancestors have exercised it ; I am applied to every day to exert this power ; I should scarcely know myself without it. I will employ it as appears best for the

public good ; but is it not too much to quit it altogether?" " Sire," said I, " be assured it is not rashly that I have given this advice : I was perfectly aware that there was some sacrifice to be made. But it has been ascertained by all history, all experience, all observation of human things, that thus only can your Majesty have tribunals where justice will be truly administered. Thus, only, can you reign over a great and prosperous people. If you deny them this, you poison all their well-being at its source : Be assured, that you will soon be much more than indemnified for all that this glorious sacrifice may cost." " Then, since you say so, and since, no doubt, I am often led to give such mandates somewhat too hastily, I agree to give the plan a fair trial."

MUSCATI *to* ACTEMAD.

I CANNOT flatter myself that much deference will be paid to my opinion by the new minister; nevertheless, what I now hear reported is so serious, that I cannot forbear offering a few words. It is positively said, that Delu is to be placed at the head of the judicial department. Surely this choice has been made without due consideration. Do you know this man? There is not on earth a more obstinate untractable fool: one that regards no interest or solicitation of any kind, or from any quarter. For this reason he is held in utter detestation by persons of the first considera-

tion ; by men whom it would really not be safe to offend. Above all, are you aware of the footing on which he stands with his Majesty ? The King considers him as a personal enemy. Directions were sent how he was to proceed in a certain case ; and these orders were not regarded : he refused to give sentence according to the pleasure of his Majesty. The consequence was, that he lost his office. Be assured it is at your peril that you bring forward this man. Then, consider what an excellent appointment this is to dispose of ! There is not a man in the kingdom that would not aspire to it. What a pity would it be thus to throw it away ! Indeed I would advise you, if possible, to prevail upon Corasmin to reconsider this subject, and to do nothing rashly.

CORASMIN *to* ACTEMAD.

You have done well in transmitting to me fully the opinion of Muscati. I should always wish to see what he has to say against any measure ; for his experience may suggest real obstacles, which would not have occurred to ourselves. But, in the present instance, all the points to which he objects, are precisely those which immoveably fix my resolution. This is the man who knows only the law, and administers it with inexorable firmness. This is he, to whom justice, and the interests of those over whom he presides, are dearer than every object of earthly ambition :

he is the man to be chosen out of a thousand. As for the King, I am quite aware of the difficulty ; but for what am I minister, if not to advise, without fear, whatever I judge essential to the public welfare?

From the Same to the Same.

I HAVE just been with Vizignan. He received my first proposal quite as ill as I expected. " Now, Corasmin, you really were ill informed, when you thought of such a person. Do you not know, that he set my orders at open defiance ? I indeed wonder that you can make me such a proposal." " Sire, I

must frankly acknowledge, that I made it with a full knowledge of all the circumstances to which you allude. But allow me to ask your Majesty, if, in the point where he refused to give sentence, you ascertained that justice was against him?" "Nay, I must truly say, that I gave the matter a very slight examination. I was urgently applied to, and always conceived myself entitled to issue such a mandate." "Was there any thing in the manner of his refusal disrespectful to your Majesty?" "No; I cannot exactly say so: only he did refuse." "Sire," said I, "there appears to me here an opportunity of gaining to your Majesty unrivalled glory, and safety to Cashmire. By appointing him, you will intimate your unalterable determination, that justice shall be done to all, and against all. By beginning yourself with this powerful effort of self-denial, you will deprive every one else of

the right to complain." After having said every thing which seemed to me most likely to weigh with the King, I contrived to break off the conversation. I did not wish to press for an immediate decision, but rather that the subject should be seriously pondered. At our next interview he said : " Well, appoint Delu. Certainly this costs me something : but I am determined to establish justice in our tribunals ; and there does seem to be no other man in whom we can place full confidence. Appoint him ; but remember we must still keep a watchful eye over his proceedings."

ACTEMAD *to* CORASMIN.

You have managed wonderfully with regard to Delu: You are a bold man: There is not another in Cashmire would have ventured what you have done.

I have fulfilled your wishes, in announcing and publishing, to the fullest extent, the system upon which we are now determined to act. I hope there is not a person concerned, who has not been duly informed of it. I am sorry to observe, however, that this warning has not made all the impression that might be expected. They observe, with an air of sage indifference, that such plans are

easily formed, but that their execution is not so easy. Unfortunately, declarations to the same effect have repeatedly been made, and then all gone on as before : hence, their gay security. We can do no more.

From the Same to the Same.

THE crisis is now come. A person well known to be supported by one of the first nobility, has expelled another from his property, in a manner, and on grounds that are quite unjustifiable. The act is directly in contradiction to the proclamations just issued. But it is one, unfortunately, which has been

sanctioned by long usage and impunity ; for which the great have now scarcely an idea of being called to account. The aggrieved person, trusting to the declared intentions of his Majesty, has appealed to the supreme tribunal. The sentence of Delu may be easily anticipated. Now is the time when all our firmness will be necessary.

MUSCATI *to* ACTEMAD.

THINGS have happened exactly as I foresaw. The process is come before Delu, and it is easy to foresee what will be his sentence: for there is no doubt, I presume, that the offence was

committed. Positively he must not be allowed to do this. A man of such consequence! such influence! It is out of the question to offend him: Never was any thing of the kind heard of or attempted. I have had some experience in these affairs: such measures never come to any thing. You will not find, that the thing will be liked. It were really much better to allow matters quietly to go on as they were. The people had become accustomed to this practice, and never ventured to murmur; while the nobles had learned to consider it as their undoubted privilege. It were safe, therefore, with a view to both these orders, not to attempt to carry through so bold a measure as the present.

ALVANDA to CORASMIN.

I HAVE received a letter from the nobleman who supports the transaction now coming before our tribunals. He expresses considerable surprise at what has been done; and intimates his assurance, that, as a matter of course, his application is to stop farther proceedings. "Probably," says he, "you were not aware that the man is under my protection; this, I presume, is quite enough,—above all, on so trifling an occasion,—the first time that I ever heard an affair of the kind seriously treated. The other man is of no consequence or consideration whatever. I am astonished that any atten-

tion should have been paid to what he has had the presumption to do. Truly, we should be in a happy condition, were such persons at liberty to conduct themselves thus towards those who are so much their superiors." This is what he writes me, and what I think proper to communicate; though I do not expect that it will have much weight in guiding your decision. I myself, in promising to transmit it to you, could not certainly engage, in any degree, to second the solicitation.

CORASMIN *to* ALVANDA.

I AM very well pleased to learn what are the views and sentiments of the

nobleman upon this affair. Of course, not the smallest regard is to be paid to them. I beg, however, that you will do every thing possible to explain to him our views in an amicable manner. Intimate our fixed determination, that justice shall take its course ; but deny, as with truth you may, any unfriendly intentions, either against himself or his order. Our only object is, to establish public order and security on an immoveable basis. I cannot flatter myself with the expectation, that you will succeed in convincing him that we act right, or that he himself is not injured ; but we may, at least, mitigate the animosity which this proceeding must kindle.

ACTEMAD *to* CORASMIN.

OUR views have been suddenly thwarted, by an accident the most untoward. So eager was the solicitation of the nobleman, of his friends, of all connected with him by similar interests, that the King has given way. He has been surprised into the issuing of an order to the Judge, to decide in favour of the person who has committed the wrong. The mandate is accompanied with formidable threats, in case of refusal. What is to be done? Delu rages, complains that he has been deceived, betrayed; that he will not sit on his seat for another hour. I enclose a letter this moment received from him.

Muscati again represents the impossibility of making any resistance, the absolute necessity of complying, and allowing the irregularity to pass, at least in this instance. We must all look to you as the only person who possibly can extricate us; and even you, I fear, will find the undertaking arduous.

Enclosure from DELU.

I UNDERSTOOD, when I accepted this place, which I was most unwilling to do, that I was to be left to act independently, and according to the dictates of my own judgment; that there was never to be any interference, such as once induced

me to abandon it. Behold! scarcely am I seated, when a mandate arrives, by which I am ordered to commit an act of acknowledged injustice. Is this, do you suppose, the footing on which I am to stand, with the name only of a judge; in reality, a mere instrument of court intrigue? I beg you will present to his Majesty my immediate resignation. Some one else must be found to do what the court now requires to be done. I am not a man to suit its present purposes.

CORASMIN *to* ACTEMAD.

I BEG that you will assure all concerned, that there is not the slightest intention of yielding. As for Delu,

you may appeal to him, whether, on his accepting the office, I did not pledge myself to support him? Was any thing then necessary, except merely that I should be apprized of the facts? Let him pronounce sentence according to the dictates of his own mind: I stand between him and court resentment. I will receive it entire. And now, my friend, prepare yourself for whatever may be the issue. I hope you are aware, that if he goes, we all go with him. The question will soon be determined.

From the Same to the Same.

I HAVE had a long interview with the King. The moment I entered, and named the subject, he exclaimed, "Oh! Corasmin, I see well what you are thinking. Certainly the thing is not right; but there are so many buzzing round me, that, for this one time, it must even, I suppose, be allowed to pass." "Sire," said I, "this is the awful, the decisive moment, which determines whether justice is to be established in Cashmire, or whether anarchy and confusion shall rule. This is the point, on which hinges the success or failure of all our schemes. If the rule is broken now, it will be vain

to think of ever enforcing it." "Oh! I am determined to adhere to it; but in this single instance I am so beset by these men :—of course, it must not be allowed to pass into a precedent." "Sire, if we do it not now, we can never do it. After granting this to one, could your Majesty refuse a similar request to another? The offence would then be much deeper; it would be personal. In attempting, then, to maintain this resolution, we should be exposed to a perpetual series of harassing solicitation: In short, this must be the precedent, which all future cases will follow. You are redressing a thousand wrongs in one." "But, observe, I really have gone so far, there is scarcely room to retrace my steps." "Oh! Sire, I see it to be painful; but this is the price that must be paid for the happiness of your people: and what is too much for a prize so inestimable? Little were the glory, did it cost nothing."

“ Can you then point out a mode in which I may recede ?” “ Sire, leave that to me. This mandate has been surprised from you clandestinely and unfairly. But it is not necessary to recal it. The judge will give the just sentence, and you have only to stand aloof.” “ Well indeed, on considering, I am sensible how difficult it would be to support the rule, after allowing it to be once broken. There is no doubt Delu is in the right; let him then follow the dictates of his own mind. I withdraw my interference.”

MUSCATI *to* CORASMIN.

SINCE you were determined to carry your point, you have certainly extricated yourself with great address out of the last difficulty. But, if I am not misinformed, we shall soon have a much more serious danger to encounter. You cannot conceive the indignation which has been kindled among the whole body of the nobles. They insist, that their just rights have been violated. It were too much to hope that it should evaporate in idle murmurs. I speak not upon vague rumour; my information is at least equal to that possessed by any one at court. The most serious consequences are to be

apprehended; and I really conceive, that it would be wiser to retrace our steps with the best possible grace. After all, I do not see the great evil that would ensue. This is the way in which things have gone on for a long period; and, to say the truth, the King makes his advantage of it as well as the nobles.

CORASMIN *to* MUSCATI.

I AM much obliged to you for your communication: I have no doubt of its correctness. It was a subject to which I intended to have immediately called your attention, had not your vigilance prevented me. Hope not that we will

yield. This is a great and just measure, which must be carried, cost what it may. But you may be of the most important use, by collecting through every channel information of what is projecting; that, learning all, we may crush it before it proceeds to open violence. There is now need of all your experience, all your attention. You have access to know all the springs by which these intrigues are moved. Let every motion be narrowly watched;—you have Actemad closely combined with you. The military force is disposed so, that it can be brought to act with rapidity upon every threatened point. We must apply it only when there is a real necessity, evident and open; but then it must be applied so promptly and powerfully, as to crush every thought of resistance. It were of inexpressible importance, however, to avoid such a catastrophe. Meantime, I will open a communication with Allaju,

who stands at the head of the more respectable class among the nobles, and hope to prevail upon him not to concur in these proceedings.

CORASMIN *to* ALLAJU.

ALTHOUGH I am fully convinced that you take no share in the cabals which, I regret to observe, are carried on by some of your order, yet my high respect for your situation and character makes me wish to explain fully to you, the motives of our late proceedings. Your friend Alvanda will converse with you at full length upon the subject. You should wrong us greatly in supposing

that we are unfriendly to your order. Far from wishing to encroach on any of your rights, we would rather give them more independence and stability. We should do so, both from respect for themselves, and from a conviction that they contribute amply to the public welfare. We would wish to rest the throne upon you, as on its firmest prop. Whatever real grievances you feel yourselves to labour under, have only to be named: his Majesty will not hesitate to lay down, for himself and for his posterity, any fatal prerogative of doing injustice: he has done it, and will do it again. But he expects a similar disposition in return: The protection of the people must, to him, be the peculiar and first object. But none shall be unjust to you, provided you are unjust to none. I am led, therefore, to hope, that you will not only withdraw all support from the ill-disposed, but that

you will throw your powerful weight into the scale of justice and public order.

ALLAJU *to* CORASMIN.

I CERTAINLY consider it my duty to watch over the privileges of the order to which I belong. It does not follow, because a privilege has been abused, that therefore we should lose it: The whole body ought not to suffer for the wrongs of one. However, I am, upon the whole, satisfied with the explanations given me. I certainly will never give my support to the machinations now in agitation. The conduct which has given rise to these proceedings has been too much

practised; it is what I never did myself, nor ever approved of in others. I am willing that it should be restrained by law: If this be all, you need fear no opposition from me. I regret much that those disturbances should have arisen: I will not only withhold all concurrence in them, but will even assist in their suppression, provided full security be given me, that the penalties of their offence shall not extend to the nobility in general.

ACTEMAD *to* CORASMIN.

ALL is now discovered: We have traced every step of a conspiracy, which certainly had been fully organized. The

day is fixed, which, they imagine, is to secure to them a brilliant triumph, and restore, with augmented lustre, every threatened privilege. I am happy to say, that no design appears as yet to be entertained against the royal person; but they are determined to effect an entire subversion of the present system, and to establish one which shall be wholly favourable to themselves. A few days must decide which party shall triumph. On our part, I trust, no precaution has been omitted.

MUSCATI to CORASMIN.

ALL has succeeded to our utmost wish. To-morrow was their day, but we antici-

pated them. The ringleaders are secured, and in chains. Now comes the time to punish, to teach them what it is to form plots against us. His Majesty has only to speak the word, and all their heads are upon the block. Certainly we ought to make a most signal example. Such has always been the practice of this government, whenever any resistance like the present was attempted. The worst part of the evil is thus rooted out; and the terror inspired restrains the rest. Let the pleasure of his Majesty be signified, and I shall take care that it be immediately executed. Perpetual banishment, of course, will be the most lenient punishment; and the confiscation of their property will throw into the treasury a most convenient supply.

CORASMIN *to* MUSCATI.

I HAVE learned with the utmost satisfaction this complete success of our measures. I congratulate you upon it: to you I ascribe a great share of the merit. With regard to the punishment of the guilty, I have fixed my resolution. Not a drop of noble blood shall flow. No banishment; no prescription! Their possessions shall be restored entire. The King has granted this to my earnest entreaty. I am fully satisfied, that the dangers of such a course will be infinitely less than would be incurred by violent and sanguinary proceedings, and by the eternal resentment which they would kindle. But

now, when they lie at our feet; now is the moment to extort a resignation of those exemptions, those powers of arbitrary jurisdiction, ruinous to their country, ultimately ruinous to themselves. This is the use which I intend to make of our victory.

I must own, that, inclined as the Sovereign is to clemency, I found some difficulty in prevailing upon him to extend it thus far. "Surely," said he, "a few examples must be made; something must be done to strike terror." It was necessary for me even to entreat in their favour. "My liege, you have been respected; it is against me alone that this rage is directed: surely, then, I may be heard when I plead for mercy. Let not a leaven of bitterness remain: when the proposed terms are accepted, let there be free and full forgiveness." Thus I obtained this boon. Benefits are yet in reserve, such as, I trust, will banish every

remnant of dissatisfaction; but the moment for bestowing is not yet come.

CORASMIN *to* ALTUNO.

THE foundation is now happily laid : No further opposition can be dreaded to the reign of justice, and the security of the nation's rights. Now, I trust, when the first barriers have fallen, our operations will proceed more smoothly and rapidly.

There are still objects which urgently claim my devoted attention. The condition of the revenues was, from the first, a subject of anxious interest. To draw them out of the abyss into which they

had sunk, seemed a task almost hopeless. Large additional imposts would have been necessary to answer the demands made, yet the circumstances of the nation urgently called for diminishing their pressure. It was most necessary, if at all possible, to lift from the neck of the labourer that burden which now bound him to the ground. We did not despair. But the first question was, to ascertain more precisely than it had been possible to do, without official information, all the present arrangements connected with this department of administration. As soon, then, as the reins of power came into our hands, we began to penetrate into the abyss. Mighty was the task! The truth could be learned only from those who knew that they would suffer by its disclosure. Secrets must be detected which thousands combined to hide. Long and incessant assiduity overcame these obstacles, and we have

at length obtained a pretty clear view of all the arrangements connected with this subject. Every new discovery augmented our hope of being able, not only to relieve the present embarrassment, but speedily to remove those burdens which weighed most heavily on the springs of public prosperity. Imposts had been laid on too often, without regard to any consideration besides that of effectually raising a revenue. No regard to their pressure on the most necessitous orders; no profound consideration of the principles of political economy, or of the light which it threw on their ultimate tendency! If tenderness were shewn to any, it was always to those whose power was dreaded; yet these were the persons who could have borne them most easily. Above all, when we examined the channels through which that which was taken from the people arrived at the Crown, ample cause was found for the sufferings

of Cashmire. This was an evil within our reach, and the continuance of which was least of all to be tolerated. After knowing all the mischiefs, however, to apply a remedy was no easy task. The system, by long continuance, had become firm and compact; it held strongly within itself the maladies under which it laboured. The wounds were to be touched with a skilful and tender hand. Great allowance was to be made for those who had to plead the temptations presented by negligence, and who seemed merely to have been carried along by the torrent. Towards them lenient measures were adopted. Some signal examples were made of such as had flagrantly violated their trust: this struck a general terror. But to the rest was granted an oblivion of the past; and they were only warned of the awful necessity which now existed, for adhering strictly to the rules which had been established. Al-

ready happy effects have been experienced, of which we anticipate with confidence the continual augmentation.

But there was another evil still greater than even the weight of these impositions; this was their uncertainty. No care had been taken to establish precisely what each was to pay: the persons employed were left to extract money in almost any manner that promised to be effectual. Hence arose the most dreadful evils. Woe to him who exhibited an appearance of prosperity; to whom even the suspicion of opulence could attach! Unless powerfully protected, he became the resource for supplying every deficiency: pretences were never wanting to overwhelm him with arbitrary and ruinous exactions. Hence, a general aspect of poverty spread over the nation; wealth, if there were any, secreted as a guilty possession; all exertion, all industry, paralyzed. This certainly could

be prevented; and it behoved us that not a moment should be lost. Care was taken, that every charge should be fixed as precisely as words could fix it; that the whole nation should be informed of it as fully as those whom we immediately employed. Above all, the means of redress to those wronged, were placed fully within their reach; and instructions were given, that, when doubts arose, it was on their side that the leaning was to be. These measures were prosecuted with all the ardour inspired by a sense of their profound importance: they are now brought nearly to their completion.

A most valuable opportunity for overthrowing the obstacles which opposed these arrangements was presented, when the entire failure of their late attempts placed us in a condition to give law to the order of the nobles. Then, without entrenching on any of those essen-

tial rights by which its dignity was supported, we could extort the resignation of those which pressed hard upon the people; of all which screened them from a just share of the common burden.

But while we thus provided for the most economical and least burdensome mode of collecting the revenue, there was another quarter which was not to be viewed with less anxiety. The funds thus obtained were not to be dissipated in thoughtless profusion. Difficulties arose here, even from the benignant disposition of the Sovereign. Continually besieged by solicitations, he granted, with careless ease, whatever was asked. Some plausible reason was always ready: "The sum is small; he says he cannot live without it; really I could not refuse the poor man." It would have cost a hard struggle to have openly attacked this propensity. I allowed it therefore for some time to proceed without oppo-

sition, till, at length, selecting several cases where the abuse was most flagrant, I took care that his Majesty should be informed of them. He was astonished. "Heavens! what shocking abuse; the man who has done this must indeed be severely punished." "I am afraid, Sire, did we apply the rule with rigour, there would be many to punish." "I wish then an inquiry to be made into all who have obtained sums from me under such pretences: I fear, indeed, it will be great." Great it certainly proved; and his Majesty, after some deliberation, said, "It is vain to think, Corasmin, of punishing all; but one thing I have now determined, which is, never to grant any petition of this nature, without first referring it to my ministers, who may examine if the claim be well founded. Let this be announced as the rule which is henceforth to be invariably adhered to." It was the precise point which I was

anxious to reach. I was confident, that when the circumstances were laid fully before him, he would not support any false or unjust claim. Having secured this object, the way was open to establish through the whole department a system of regularity and economy.

From the Same to the Same.

I MENTIONED my intention of doing something to improve the condition of the body of the nobles, for which I waited only till the recent commotions had subsided, and there could be no danger of our concessions being ascribed to intimidation. This body, indeed, had for-

merly possessed the power of oppressing the inferior orders; but, in the general disorder, it was itself exposed to proceedings, which rendered the dignity, and even existence of its members precarious. It was, from the first, our determination to avail ourselves of no precedent for such irregular acts; on the contrary, we checked their exercise as far as our influence extended. The observation of this had a powerful influence in securing the allegiance of all that was most respectable in this order. But there were also many which were considered as inherent rights of the Crown, and which, whenever the occasions arose, were exercised even without any positive order. These occasions, too, were precisely those in which they were felt with peculiar severity. On the death of any member of this order, his family became exposed to a variety of exactions: they were often entirely stripped of their wealth

and dignities. Thus this order possessed no stability, and not only were the most cruel sufferings often inflicted, but a situation so precarious left no room for that dignity of character which is generated by a sense of independence and hereditary right. I determined to use every effort in order to prevail upon Vizignan to forego claims so pernicious. An opportunity was presented, by the death of a nobleman of distinction, and of character highly respectable, whose property, by the established rules, fell almost entirely into the power of the Crown, leaving a numerous family destitute. It was only necessary to mention the facts, in order to make the King at once express a determination to advance no claim in this instance: but such was not the object at which I aimed. "Sire," said I, "I expected nothing less from the experienced beneficence of your character. But let us consider: Few cases,

indeed, are so very severe ; yet, whenever the same thing is done in any degree, there must be some hardship, some injustice. Would it not be worthy of the generosity of your Majesty, finally to renounce such a privilege. You would then no longer grow rich on the spoils of the widow and the orphan." " I am fully sensible, Corasmin, that the practice were better entirely omitted. Most gladly should I agree to it. But is not this a privilege which all sovereigns before me have exercised ? and if I thus give up my revenue, how is my dignity to be supported ? or how are we to provide for the exigencies of the state ?" " Sire, if I do not, in a year, triple the revenue derived from this source, I shall consent most heartily to its resumption." " Well, indeed I shall certainly not object to wait the issue of such an experiment."

From the Same to the Same.

You inquire with a friendly interest into my private life; into the manner in which I spend those intervals which must occur, even amid a round of the most urgent employments? Whenever relaxation becomes necessary, the means are ample. Every source of amusement is at my command; every door is open, every face is dressed in smiles. But this universal welcome, in itself little flattering, is attended with dangers against which I must continually guard. I cannot but see and know, that there are secret motives for these eager attentions: I am aware of the construction which

might be put upon their acceptance. Yet such is the human heart, so great the power of that polished and insinuating address, which is here carried to perfection, that it is not always easy for a man to defend himself against these influences; it is surer, often, to fly than to resist. Flattery, that serpent, which hides itself under flowers so fair; which insinuates itself through the minutest crevices into the heart, to lodge there its delicious poison: this is the enemy from which I am continually in danger.

But if I must thus deny myself to some pleasures, there remains an ample store of the highest and purest. I have friends raised high above the rest of mankind, by every quality which can secure confidence, esteem, love. To their society I can devote myself with unmixed pleasure, without the dread of any lurking snare, without any alloy of dread or precaution. Meantime, pleasures not

to be despised are afforded by the productions of all the arts, which are here highly improved, and to which we hope soon to communicate a new impulse.

Yet do not these pleasing avocations so wholly engross me, but that some intervals are still reserved for entire solitude. These are of influence most salutary, to give repose to the soul after the tumultuous agitation of public life. I have secured a small retreat, situated immediately on the banks of the lake, which appears beneath, almost touching the windows. Around is a varied scenery of winding shores, tufted islands, wooded promontories stretching far into the waters; and, at a distance, appear white sails passing and repassing. This is, indeed, a sacred retreat from the tempest of human passions. Hither, when sickened by art, and by the contest of jarring elements, hither I fly. Here the glittering veil, which elsewhere covers

all the objects around me, spontaneously drops of, and nature and man resume their genuine aspect. Here I am restored to heaven and to myself.

You recal me to the subject of Selmida, and of the deep sentiments with which she inspired me. Do not suppose that the interest has decayed in my heart. But, view my situation. It is not permitted to me to devote myself to any private passion, even the purest and best. I am engaged in a cause to which all my powers, however concentrated, would still be unequal. Fixed as is my purpose to proceed upon no superficial or doubtful observation, yet not to sacrifice a single public object to the inquiry, my progress in it is necessarily slow. When first such great interests were solely entrusted to me, I could not admit an idea which did not relate to them; it was necessary to shun every thing which could turn in another direction

the current of my thoughts. After the first arrangements have been made, and affairs begin to proceed in the wished-for train, a self-denial so strict is no longer required. I have again seen her more than once; nor is my impression now different from that which I first received. I experience, indeed, in her manner, a degree of reserve and distance still more marked than before. Still, however, I flatter myself that it does not arise from any unfriendly feeling: It seems rather to be the reserve of a mind entrenching itself in conscious worth, jealous of the claims which might be advanced by place and power, and determined never to yield, unless to personal considerations alone. But it is not yet my part to make any efforts to overcome this reserve; for think not that aught is finally resolved. Too awful is the dread of uniting myself, to any except one who could share my most secret thoughts. I have yet seen

and heard only a little : I have still much to inquire, to ascertain. For this purpose aid will not be wanting. From the moment that my attention appeared at all to be thus turned, many became envious of the lot which it is in my power to offer. This is fortunate for me ; I have thus full assurance of hearing all that it can be possible to say. I must listen, still, indeed, with caution, not lightly to relinquish such hopes ; and here, I believe, there is little room for apprehension. I must listen and inquire ; and must fully ascertain, of every charge I hear, on what real foundation it rests. In what I have as yet heard there is nothing to move me. Either the allegations were trivial, and magnified only by the medium through which they were viewed, or the slightest observation was sufficient to refute them ; nay, some there were which undesignedly raised my idea of her against whom they were directed.

But still opportunity has not been given fully to hear all that may be said; and I still wait, in fearful anxiety, lest a word should dispel the bright enchantment which now glitters before me.

From the Same to the Same.

MY inquiries still continue into the subject on which I last wrote you. I have at length heard something which does indeed merit serious consideration. Have you heard of Jellal? probably you must, and somewhat perhaps of his character. I really have not much to say against him. In the circle in which he flutters he is very well; and there is no

reason why society should not have a few of such frivolous embellishments. But that one endowed with thought, or any nobleness of character, should attach themselves to him, is to me beyond all conception. Yet I am assured, in a manner which really it is impossible to doubt, that not only is he assiduous in his attentions, but that these are received with visible complacency. Imagine not that I am jealous of Jellal; it were impossible that I ever should. Of her whom he can please, never could I entertain a thought: I could not be *his* rival. But I am anxious and eager to ascertain, whether she be really one to whom such accomplishments are congenial. It is necessary that the question should be speedily determined:—scarcely can I resist the rapid progress which she is making in my affections. I feel that the time may soon come, when, after the fullest conviction, I may still cling to

her in spite of myself; when, if she is torn from the seat she occupies, it will only be after dreadful efforts.

From the Same to the Same.

I HAVE seen Jellal and Selmida together. Almost the first word was sufficient to dispel my alarms. It was evidently a very gay and careless pleasure, indeed, with which his society could inspire her; she had completely sounded his depth. The good-nature with which she listened, was such as, even to him, could not inspire a gleam of hope. I laughed at myself for having felt any uneasiness from such a source.

But if all apprehensions on this ground are at an end, others have opened which call for still more serious attention.— Good Heavens ! it is impossible ; never can I believe such a charge ;—Selmida devoted to play, ruinously devoted to it ! She and this Hindali, her intimate friend, whom I once met there, and who pleased me so much, are the leaders in this horrid association. The charge is urged, indeed, with evident malignity, and I have no faith in the professed motives of those who advance it ; yet are the circumstances told, plausible ; and evidence, which would scarcely leave room for doubt, is confidently offered. I do not, and will not believe it ; yet still it is dreadful to be obliged to make the inquiry. Never could there be on earth such a barrier of separation between us as this would raise. To have a creature thus charming making the solicitations to which she would be continually tempt-

ed; to have a boundless gulf of expense thus opened;—this were a danger from which I must shrink as from the most dreadful into which it were possible to be precipitated. There certainly is in her something that is good: Her guilt may admit of much palliation: Powerful surely were the temptations by which she was seduced into it. There may even be hope, great hope, of reclaiming her; but it is not for me to undertake the task. No; if it be so, I have nothing left but to abandon her for ever. With a heavy and fearful heart I proceed to the inquiry. At least, with the means of information which are offered, I can scarcely be held long in suspense.

From the Same to the Same.

IN my last I intimated an expectation of some farther light being soon thrown upon the charge against Selmida. I have those around me who are eager to supply the means of detecting every blemish which her character may exhibit. In proof of the dreadful allegation which had been made, a very simple test was offered. I was assured, that if I merely rode out in a certain direction, I should receive visible evidence of what had been asserted. I went; and then, indeed, at a certain point of the road, I saw the two friends coming, apparently from the very quarter that had been named as the

scene of this guilty rendezvous. I shuddered. Still, however, nothing was proved : Any chance, any incident the most common, might have conducted them hither. I approached and joined them, in hopes of drawing out an explanation which might set my fears at rest. On seeing me, there did appear a confusion ; and they looked at each other as if there were something between them into which I was not to be admitted. I entered into conversation, and did every thing which was possible, without a breach of politeness, to extract their secret. Every question, however, was evaded ; and I was more and more sadly convinced, that this evasion was designed and studied. At every question which seemed to press upon the word, visible symptoms appeared of their first uneasiness ; and looks were exchanged, as if of consultation, what it were best to say. Not only did I receive no satis-

faction, but it was left beyond a doubt that there was something over which a veil was to be thrown. I could scarcely, even from what transpired, hesitate to believe, that the place on which my suspicions rested was precisely that from which they had come; and ever, as the conversation touched it more nearly, their emotion obviously increased. After seeing that I had no farther discovery to hope, I snatched the first opportunity of taking leave, and returned home overwhelmed with the most painful sensations. Such a coincidence of circumstances,—this confusion, these blushes,—all appear as confirmations of the cruel secret. Yet there is still nothing final; nothing to exclude the hope that all may be explained: and this is an object which it behoves me not lightly to extinguish. Before abandoning such bright hopes, I must be fully assured of their being illusory. But there is enough to fill me with

mortal alarm. Above all, there is an urgent necessity to tear her from that seat in my affections, into which she is sinking still deeper and deeper. I blush to think, that, after what I have heard, what I have seen, her image still lives there as bright as before. Even as I dwell on this theme, her eyes, her voice, her feeling and eloquent language, rise before me, and I can no longer believe that she is any thing but what these would declare. This is what I must no longer suffer: Her idea must be forcibly excluded, and other thoughts, of which there is so ample a store, must fill its place. This image, rendered more dim, will then plead less powerfully. Above all, I must have recourse to absence. I will see her no more, till I know that I can do it with safety.

From the Same to the Same.

I CLOSED my last letter, with the determination of never more going to Chin-
nar, till I had formed my final judgment
of the object that attracted me thither.
Alas ! my friend, the very next day I
found myself, without knowing how, far
on the road to that place. I stopped : Re-
gard to my resolution, to consistency,
called upon me to return. But to see
her once again, to take one last view,
was too tempting ; and I persuaded my-
self that there were points to examine,
to scrutinize, formerly overlooked. I
went on deliberating, till I was too near

to think of returning. But what then did I see? You must know, that another spot, at a small distance from her own residence, and which was now very near, had been mentioned to me as the country rendezvous of her party. On the road, then, from thence, I discovered one, whom, though seen indistinctly through the trees, I instantly, by the air and attitude, recognized to be herself. At sight of me she stopped, hesitated, then believing apparently, (and it might so appear to those who knew not the watchful eyes of a lover), that she was unobserved, she struck off suddenly into a different route. At an event so inauspicious to my hopes, I at first determined to return. Then considering, that by seeing her I might have an opportunity, either of drawing forth an explanation, or of ascertaining that there was none to give, I resolved to proceed. As soon as, by a slight allusion which I made, she

perceived herself to have been discovered, the same embarrassment, the same confusion followed. She did not attempt to deny that it had been herself; this was well: But her flutter, the awkward reason which she stammered for her disappearance, proved too clearly that here, too, there was some fearful mystery. After vain attempts to penetrate it, I rose and took my leave.

Such has been the result of my almost involuntary visit. The cloud which had gathered over this fair prospect, thus falls deeper and deeper. I can scarcely doubt that something, which cannot be owned, is hid beneath these fatal visits. Yet certainly there is much excellence in this creature, though, I fear, thus cruelly alloyed. I have traced her in the country round, in the villages, in the cottages of the peasantry; every-where she is spoken of as a guardian angel. I have traced, not an instinctive impulse,

which lavishes without thought on the objects of its commiseration, but a wise and thoughtful beneficence; one which considered, in an enlarged view, the true interest of those in whose favour it is exerted. How glaring, how inconceivable the inconsistency! I still cherish the hope that she will be justified; and yet I can scarcely imagine how.

From the Same to the Same.

JUST as I was beginning again to hope, beginning to trust that some light would penetrate through the present cloud, I have been struck with a more mortal blow than ever. The enemies of Selmidia,

who, to say the truth, are indefatigable in their exertions, seem now indeed to have given a full proof how devoted she is to this dreadful passion. To supply her necessities, I was assured that she had recently disposed of a diamond of great value, which was now in the possession of an eminent dealer in that commodity. I ascertained the fact; indeed I myself knew the ring, and had observed her wear it. However, this was not enough: I wished also to make trial of the emotion which the sight of it would cause. Some accident, some exigency, might have induced her to part with it. I bought the diamond, put it on my own finger, and, with a palpitating fearful heart, went to Chinar. I entered, all eagerness to discover the impression that was to be made. I was soon satisfied: her eyes were instantly fixed on the fatal ring, and instantly the blood left her cheek. The words which

she was uttering trembled and died : My heart, too, died within me. This seemed a fatal confirmation of my worst fears. I now held her almost as quite lost to me ; yet, accounting this the final interview, I still lingered. She soon resumed her serenity, though ever, as she glanced at the object of her first emotion, a faint return of it was visible. The conversation, however, became animated, and her's displayed, in full lustre, all those charms by which I had been so deeply captivated. What misery ! to have her thus endeared to me at the very moment when there impended such an awful necessity of for-ever renouncing her ; and yet, with what rapture I listened ! A persuasion continually seized me, that though there was confusion, it was not the confusion of guilt. But how, situated as my heart now is, can I trust to its making so nice, so difficult a distinction ? Oh no, no ! all my hopes die within me.

Proof now amounts almost to certainty. I will persevere in the inquiry so long as a doubt remains. But I must not, by hoping, prepare for myself new pangs: I must steadily contemplate the worst issue, as that which I must be fully prepared to encounter.

From the Same to the Same.

SINCE my last I have had new sufferings to endure.—I had gone out, during an interval of leisure, to take a walk into the country, and my steps involuntarily turned into their wonted path. I saved myself, however, from entering; I merely hovered round its confines. Here, in my

mournful wanderings, I was attracted by a little spot, so rich in rural beauty, that for a moment it banished the recollection of what I was suffering. It was composed of a little eminence, irregularly covered with detached trees, hillocks, and groves, through the openings of which glittered a streamlet, which formed, in descending, a variety of little cascades. I was tempted to explore a scene so pleasing. But in ascending, I soon found, that its immediate beauties were eclipsed by those of the prospect which it commanded over the valley beneath. A circuit of gentle hills was seen enclosing a pastoral region, through which the Jalama softly meandered. From the summit too appeared, towering far behind, the awful pinnacles of distant mountains. I admired the felicity which, at every point, opened the finest views over the prospect beneath and around. Sometimes extensive views were disclos-

ed ; but more generally those partial glimpses, those dim and visionary gleams through interposing foliage, which are so much more pleasing to the imagination. Yet all was arranged with such care, that it seemed at first the work of nature's hand. Soon, however, it became evident, that the most refined art had been employed ; that all had been planned by an eye to which the most secret charms of nature were familiar. What eye was that ? A secret presentiment arose. I discovered an old man who was labouring at a little distance. I approached : " Friend, who has employed you to dress this little spot ? " " Ah, sir, it is my young mistress, the lady Selmi-da ; this is *her* ground. A little odd, perhaps, you may think it ; but such is her fancy. I am always glad to do any thing for her, she desires it so sweetly, just as if one were doing her a kindness. I never feel any work so light as that done

for her." It was necessary for me to hasten away. Here was a new charm opened in the object of this fatal passion. All that had enchanted me was as it were herself; her taste, her soul was in all. Independent of the high qualities which seemed to me to exist in her, what a source of pleasure would be opened by a taste so congenial! In how many respects do our hearts seem made for each other; and yet how dreadful a bar separates them! This idea, which I was soon compelled to readmit, poisoned all the pleasure which I had at first felt; and a cruel conflict followed. I sunk into a paroxysm of despair, and the most charming creature on earth seemed for ever lost to me. Then hope again revived, and I was tossed by a fluctuation of opposite passions, to which I scarcely can discover a period.

From the Same to the Same.

OH, my Friend, into what an abyss am I now sunk ! After all that I have heard, after the little hope that remains of Selmida being such as I seek, there is something in the inmost part of my soul which refuses to believe, and continually pleads for her. I feel even a dreadful temptation to sue for her, whatever it may cost ; to forget every consideration, but how to make her mine ! But, worse than all, I begin to feel an effect, which it seemed before that nothing on earth could produce. The welfare of those over whose destinies I preside, excites not altogether

equal ardour : this image begins to appear more dim. Little did I think, that any single object should dispute the empire of my heart with that which reigned so long supreme and sole. But so it must not be. I feel, that while I inquire, while I lose myself in musings and conjectures, this idea, thus constantly occupying my thoughts, binds itself always closer around me. To escape will soon be almost impossible. I must not therefore see her, nor think of her : She must become to me as if she had never existed. I am determined, and will do it. You will see that in my next she shall not even be named.

From the Same to the Same.

WE have done our utmost to secure the nation in its just rights; to secure them at once against the violence of the nobles, and against the exactions practised by our own officers. But there still remain heavy weights which press on the springs of public prosperity. Commerce, above all, was robbed of that liberty by which alone it can be made to flourish. Districts, formed for the supply of each other's wants, were as useless to each other as if mountains or impassable deserts intervened. Sometimes a man possessed of influence had used it, to secure the monopoly of a particular

commodity, and to exclude all rivals. The Government itself, from a vain hope of securing ample sources of gain, often seized the exclusive right of vending those articles which were in most general demand. Nor was it seldom, that an unenlightened zeal to promote the benefit of certain provinces, led to the exclusion from thence of all rival commodities. Thus, from various causes, fetters were continually formed, which chained all the efforts that individuals would have spontaneously made to improve their own and the public fortune. "Sire," said I, "you have removed the load that hung on the arm of industry; allow it now a wider field in which to expatiate. Give to commerce, liberty: This is the vital principle on which its life and growth depend; thus is plenty to be spread over your land. These chains which confine the efforts of industry; which blast, as they burst forth, all the

buds of enterprise and activity; these chains must be broken." I wished, however, sensibly to impress the King with the importance of the measures which I was now to propose; and an opportunity occurred, in the course of a short excursion which we were taking through a district in the neighbourhood of the capital. I took occasion to observe, how amply this territory was qualified to afford supplies of a commodity, under the want of which the city had of late suffered severely. Vizignan then said, "Now, surely, this is a proof of what I formerly urged to you. There is an innate sluggishness in these men: nothing else could have deterred them from engaging in a branch of industry which would have yielded ample profits. Yet they regard only their own supply." "Sire, it is by your own express orders that they follow this course: were they to do otherwise, they would violate your

most positive injunctions.” “Is it possible?” “In ten minutes I will shew you the order.” “Well, at least it shall not be so for ten minutes longer.—Now, Corasmin, I see plainly all the evils which you have pointed out to me, as arising from this system: I am determined to break it down. But could we venture at once to overthrow all these barriers, and introduce so mighty a change?” “Far from it; never should I give such an advice to your Majesty. We must proceed only by gradual steps: We must begin with steadily shutting the door against any new restraint, and then consider how gradually to dissolve those which actually exist. We must gradually loosen the bands by which industry is cramped; must remove, by a succession of gentle efforts, obstacles which would have resisted a direct and violent attack. And, Sire, you have here an opportunity of yourself making what may seem a

sacrifice for your people's good. An attempt is made to monopolize, for the use of the treasury, a number of commodities that are in most general demand. It is incredible how little this produces, yet how much misery it causes. Waste and confusion, beyond what it is possible to check, reign in every department: innumerable offenders are created, who would never otherwise have been such. I can perceive no obstacle to the immediate extinction of this ruinous system. There is no class in society that will not thus be benefited; the few who suffer will be those who are employed in conducting it; persons whose merits, I suspect, are often not very distinguished: but for these a moderate and reasonable compensation will easily be found." "I can easily conceive, that the system you have mentioned must press hard upon the people: to relieve it would give me the sincerest pleasure. But you are aware,

that some regard must be paid to the condition of the treasury; the necessary funds must still be preserved: Tell me, do you think it safe to part with this source of revenue?" "Sire," said I, "never should I have named the subject to your Majesty, had I not been prepared for this difficulty. In half an hour I will shew you an arrangement, by which the Crown will sensibly gain, yet vast relief be afforded to the people." On examining this plan the King was satisfied, and measures will immediately be taken for carrying this important measure into execution.

From the Same to the Same.

I MENTIONED in my last, how, in establishing commercial freedom, the obstacles on the part of the Sovereign were easily removed. More management was required in those in which the interest of powerful individuals was involved. It had been the practice, that those who were either powerful or in favour at court, who were loved or feared, should be propitiated by a monopoly. It was deemed the cheapest and easiest mode of reward; it cost nothing to the Sovereign, and fell only on the people. Demands continued to be made almost daily; and the good humour of the King rendered

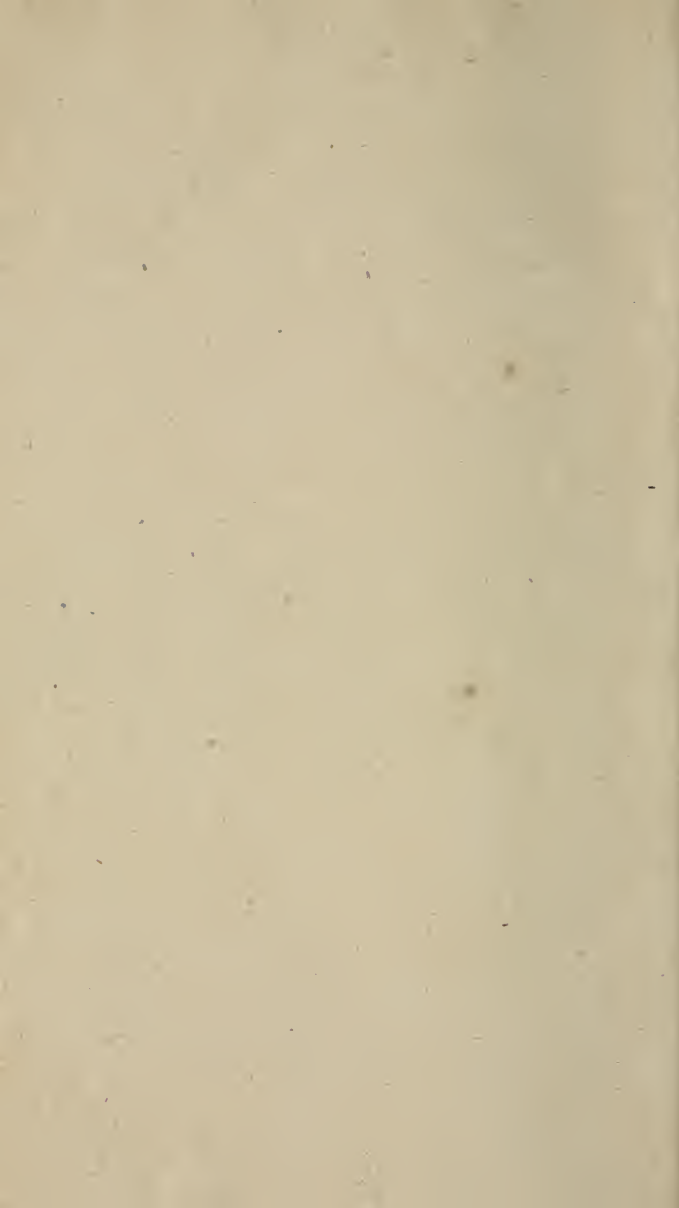
it a hard task for him to refuse. One, in particular, was claimed by a nobleman so powerful, and possessing such favour, that most of the ministers, and above all Muscati, advised submission as absolutely necessary. I determined, however, not to yield. I was resolved immovably to resist every one who invaded and sought to shut up the channels of public industry. However, I gave directions that every thing should be done to avoid offending this nobleman, and to convince him, that no personal feeling, no failure in the respect due to rank and character, prompted my determination. "It was from the high consideration which he enjoyed, that we were led to dread the contagious influence of his example." Every thing possible was done to convince him of the injurious nature of the claim which he was urging, and to induce him voluntarily to desist. We did not entirely suc-

ceed ; yet were we thus able to prevent him from breaking forth into any expressions of open discontent. Thus, to the public he appeared to acquiesce ; and so strong a precedent, established, went far to remove all obstacles, and to silence every other claimant.

END OF VOLUME FIRST.

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